

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings:

Pursuant to House Rule X (4)(c)(2) of the 114th Congress, we call on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to investigate recent claims that ExxonMobil misled the public and its shareholders about the liabilities of climate change.

In September, 2015, we were alarmed to learn from various media investigations that ExxonMobil may have intentionally concealed their understanding of the impacts of fossil fuels on global climate change. According to these reports, company executives proceeded to embark on a campaign of denial and misinformation rather than share this information publicly.

On October 14, 2015, we wrote to the U.S. Department of Justice highlighting our concerns and requested their assistance to investigate these important issues. In a parallel effort, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman confirmed in November that his office had subpoenaed documents to determine if ExxonMobil had misled the public and its shareholders about the liabilities of climate change. Media reports suggested at the time that New York's investigation would focus on ExxonMobil's funding of unaffiliated organizations that worked to undermine climate science while its own researchers presented risk speculation to company executives.

This week, we wrote to the California Department of Justice to encourage the agency to leverage its authorities to determine if violations of our state corporate securities and commodities laws were violated. According to various press reports, it appears likely that the State will examine these troubling claims as well.

To be clear, it remains to be determined whether ExxonMobil's actions violated any laws and the company vigorously denies any wrongdoing. However, we are deeply concerned that ExxonMobil has refused to provide any additional information to our offices despite their agreement to do so following a November 3, 2015, meeting with their representatives.

Given the Committee's broad jurisdiction to investigate such matters, we strongly urge you to investigate this important matter in the first quarter of 2016, and request the appropriate information necessary to determine if any federal laws or regulations were violated.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please be assured that we stand ready to assist you in any way to advance this timely request, and we look forward to working with you to address this important issue. If you have any questions or concerns, we stand ready to work with you to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress