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Chief Executive Officer
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December 7, 2015

Dear Chief Executive Officers,

As members of Congress concerned about climate change and the devastating effects it is having and will continue to have on our planet, we are alarmed by reports stating that Exxon (becoming ExxonMobil in 1999) hid the truth about the role of fossil fuels in influencing climate change and intentionally spread disinformation about climate science. Investigations by the *Los Angeles Times*¹ and *Inside Climate News*² allege that Exxon scientists confirmed fossil fuels' role in climate change decades ago, but top executives decided to hide the truth and instead embarked on a massive campaign of denial and disinformation.

An investigation by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has concluded that ExxonMobil was not alone in hiding knowledge of climate change while spreading disinformation about climate science. UCS concluded there was a "coordinated campaign of deception" on climate science by "ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, BP, Shell, Peabody Energy, and other members of the fossil fuel industry."³

The UCS investigation specifically found the following:⁴

- "Fossil fuel companies have intentionally spread climate disinformation for decades."
- "Fossil fuel company leaders knew that their products were harmful to people and the planet but still chose to actively deceive the public and deny this harm."
- "The campaign of deception continues today."

UCS uncovered many internal company documents which appear to confirm a coordinated campaign of deception conducted by the industry to deceive the public of climate science that even their own scientists confirmed. These actions included "forged letters to Congress, secret funding of a supposedly independent scientist, the creation of fake grassroots organizations, [and] multiple efforts to deliberately manufacture uncertainty about climate science."⁵

Given the information that has come to light from multiple investigations, we request that you answer the following questions:

- When did your company first become aware that using fossil fuels could result in climate change and warming of the planet?
- What did your company do with this information?
- Did your company fund organizations that denied climate change or sought to spread uncertainty about climate change?
- Did your company oppose the Kyoto Protocol?
- What state and federal legislation to mitigate climate change has your company opposed?
- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, forge letters to Congress regarding climate change?
- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, secretly fund a supposedly independent scientist or scientists to deny or spread uncertainty about climate change?
- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, create fake grassroots organizations to deny or spread uncertainty about climate change?
- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, promote uncertainty about climate science?
- Is your company continuing to fund misinformation regarding climate science either directly or through third parties?
- Will you release your company's past scientific data and findings regarding climate change?
- Does your company believe the use of fossil fuels is contributing to global warming? If yes, have you made public statements to that effect?
- What state or federal legislation to mitigate climate change has your company supported?

- Does your company support the science-based 2 degree Celsius temperature target to limit dangerous climate change?
- What is your company's business plan for reducing emissions consistent with this safe climate target?

Sincerely,

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
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Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
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Zoe Lofgren
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Karen Bass
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James P. McGovern
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Earl Blumenauer
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
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Carolyn Maloney
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

¹ Sara Jerving *et al.*, “What Exxon Knew About the Earth’s Melting Arctic,” *Los Angeles Times*, Oct. 9, 2015 and Katie Jennings *et al.*, “How Exxon Went From Leader to Skeptic on Climate Change Research,” *Los Angeles Times*, Oct 23, 2015.

² Neela Banerjee *et al.*, “Exxon: The Road Not Taken,” *Inside Climate News*, Sep. 21, 2015.

³ Mulvey, Kathy, and Seth Shulman. “The Climate Deception Dossiers (2015).” 2015. Accessed October 25, 2015.

⁴*Id.*

⁵*Id.*