

BIG OIL, TELL THE TRUTH

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Megan Ahearn, NYPIRG, 845-988-6300,
mahearn@nypirg.org

Over 350 Environmental, Civic and College Student Organizations Support Attorney General Schneiderman's ExxonMobil Investigation

New York City –Activists representing more than 350 environmental, civic, and college student organizations delivered a letter to New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in support of his investigation of ExxonMobil. Recently uncovered documents show that for decades the Big Oil giant knew about the growing hazards resulting from the burning of fossil fuels, but they did not alert the public to the dangers.

Representatives from the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Food & Water Watch, 350.org, and others emphasized the scientific and legal importance of the investigation in the ongoing effort to address climate change and its effects on life on Earth.

“There is significant evidence that ExxonMobil misled the public about climate change,” said **Megan Ahearn, Program Director for NYPIRG**. “Exposing this deception is critical to protecting people and the planet and we want Attorney General Schneiderman to know how important his investigation is to ensuring that Big Oil is held accountable.”

After the meeting, representatives from supportive groups gathered outside with a 15-foot-tall oil drum and held a press conference calling for continued pressure to determine what ExxonMobil knew about climate change and failed to disclose. Experts from the legal and scientific communities spoke about the importance of the investigation.

"ExxonMobil has been on notice of climate change for six decades, and public evidence strongly suggests that the company may have misled investors and the public regarding the causes, nature, and risks of climate change. said **Steven Feit, attorney at the Center for International Environmental Law**. “Attorney General Schneiderman's investigation is critical to understanding whether or not Exxon's actions constitute fraud. If so, the public must be made aware and those responsible must be held accountable.”

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Jennifer Jacquet, an environmental studies professor from NYU also participated in the press conference, highlighting how this investigation could be critical in determining how the country responds to climate change going forward.

"Exxon's legacy of climate change and climate change denial is not only immoral and comes at the expense of clean energy policies and our planet, but it is fraud," said **Jennifer Jacquet, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at NYU**. "This case is one of the most important of the twenty-first century."

"Attorney General Schneiderman has emerged as one of the most stalwart, brave and useful foes of Trumpism in these past few weeks," said **Bill McKibben, leader of the anti-carbon campaign group 350.org**. "In particular, his ongoing effort to make sure that Exxon is not allowed to get away with its decades of climate denial is a great service to history, to the idea that facts still matter, and to the ongoing effort to protect the planet's atmosphere. Would that we had more public servants who were willing to use all the powers of their office in the public interest!" Mr. McKibben is also the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College.

"Big Oil needs to come clean about the harm they've done to the political process and the planet," said **Paige Murray, Senior at Brooklyn College and NYPIRG Environmental Campaign Project Leader**. "Burning fossil fuels has had catastrophic impacts for life on Earth, and fossil fuel companies knew it. Students like me, who will bear the brunt of climate change impacts, know that the Attorney General's investigation is critical to holding Big Oil accountable for their deception."

"The Trump administration will not investigate Big Oil – because the fossil fuel industry is running the federal government," said **Eric Weltman, a Brooklyn-based Senior Organizer with Food & Water Watch**. "That's why Attorney General Schneiderman's investigation is absolutely necessary, both for the sake of our democracy and the future of the planet."

A copy of the letter to the Attorney General is attached.

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February 22, 2017

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman
New York State Department of Law
120 Broadway
New York, NY

Dear Attorney General Schneiderman:

The undersigned write to express our support for your work to hold the oil industry accountable for its decades-long campaign to thwart policies that would curb emissions of greenhouse gases. While we are in no position to have an opinion on the possible violations of law that your office is exploring, we are well aware of the success the fossil-fuel lobby has had blocking proposals to curtail burning of fossil fuels.

As you well know, the planet is heating up and it is primarily the result of human activities. For decades, scientists have warned that unless plans were put in place to reduce the use of coal, oil and gas, climate changes would occur and millions would suffer as a result. Those most likely to be harmed are people who live in impoverished nations — those areas which have been the least responsible for generating the pollutants that trigger global warming.

It is clear that the wealthy, industrialized world — which is primarily responsible for global warming — must be the leader in tackling this problem. This is both a moral and practical imperative. But instead of leading, national public health, environmental protection and climate policies have been blocked by the political power of the oil lobby.

As recent media investigations have found, the industry leader — ExxonMobil — was well aware of the dangers of global warming and that burning fossil fuels was a key driver in raising global temperatures.

According to corporate documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times, for example, a leading Exxon researcher told an audience of engineers at a conference in 1991 that greenhouse gases are rising “due to the burning of fossil fuels. Nobody disputes this fact.” The senior Exxon researcher went on to add that there was no doubt those levels would double by the middle of the 21st century.

Yet at the same time, the company was telling its shareholders concerned about climate change that it had studied the science of global warming and concluded it was too murky to warrant action. The company said that its “examination of the issue supports the conclusions that the facts today and the projection of future effects are very unclear.”

Support For Holding Big Oil Accountable, Page 2

Why would a company with rigorous research hide its conclusions and publicly argue the opposite? According to the Los Angeles Times, it was because Exxon feared a growing public consensus would lead to financially burdensome policies.

As the Times explained, top corporate officials proposed “a plan for the ‘Exxon Position’: In order to stop the momentum behind the issue, Exxon should emphasize doubt. Tell the public that more scientific research is needed before regulatory action is taken and emphasize the ‘costs and economics’ of restricting carbon dioxide emissions.”

ExxonMobil succeeded at manufacturing doubt. So much so that national political figures still proclaim that global warming is a hoax.

ExxonMobil argues that its internal science led corporate officials to make statements that at the time they believed were the truth. Your investigation may well shed light on the veracity of that statement.

But what cannot be ignored is that climate changes are occurring due to global warming — and that such warming is primarily the result of human activity. The world has lost valuable time due to the tactics of the opponents of that scientific fact. As a result, millions worldwide will suffer.

Setting the record straight about what ExxonMobil knew and when it knew it is important to moving forward decisively on climate change in 2017. According to internal documents disclosed by the Los Angeles Times and other outlets, Exxon fully understood that denying climate science was influencing not only investors and members of the general public, but the lawmakers and regulators who had the power and responsibility to craft policies to act by clamping down on climate pollution.

The world cannot ignore this rising threat. As one of the world’s leading contributors to global warming, the United States must take the lead in curbing the damage that is due to come. And it must do so by following the advice of the world’s leading scientists: leave fossil fuels in the ground and rely on safe, non-polluting, energy sources.

Therefore, the undersigned groups support your investigation and your examination of the corporate actions of ExxonMobil and other industry actors.

Sincerely,

Support For Holding Big Oil Accountable, Page 3

350.org
350Brooklyn
350NYC
350Plattsburgh
Active Minds, SUNY Cortland
Actively Involved in the Community (AIC), SUNY Cortland
Advocates for Cherry Valley
African American Student Organization, Buffalo State
African Student Organization, Binghamton
African Student Union, New Paltz
All Our Energy
Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE)
Alliance for Democracy
Alliance of Latin American Studies, Queens College
ALLY, QCC
Alpha Phi Omega, New Paltz
American Heart Association, SUNY Cortland
American Sign Language Association (ASL), SUNY Cortland
Amnesty International, New Paltz
Andes Works
Anime Club, Nassau Community College
Anthropology Club, Hunter
Anthropology Club, New Paltz
Anthropology Club, Purchase
Arab Studies Club, Hunter
ASAP Career Development, QCC
Ascend, Queens College
Association for Computing Machinery, Queens College
Astronomy Clun, Buffalo State
Athletic Training Club, SUNY Cortland
Bako Tribe, Pratt
Baseball Club, BMCC
BeanCounters Unlimited
Best Buddies, Buffalo State
Big Apple Coffee Party
Big Initiatives Incorporated
Big Reuse
Biology Club, QCC

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Biology Club, SUNY Cortland
Bizarre Bazaar, 350 Plattsburgh
Black Active Minds, Buffalo State
Black Lives Matter - Pratt, Pratt
BMCC Student Government Association, BMCC
BONGARBIZ
Breen Consulting
Broadway Community
Bronx Climate Justice North
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality
Buffalo State Newman Center, Buffalo State
Cafeteria Culture
Campaign for Renewable Energy
Capital District Against Fracking
Carbon Tax Center
Caribbean Student Association, Queens College
Caribbean Students Union, Hunter
Catholic Newman Club, Queens College
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary
Charles Drew Minority Pre-Health Society, Binghamton
Chemistry Club, SUNY Cortland
Church Women United in New York State
Circle K International, Hunter
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens Energy and Economics Council of Delaware County, NY (CEEC)
Citizens for Local Power
Citizens For Water
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Clean and Healthy New York
Climate Action Coalition, New Paltz
Climate Caucus of West Harlem Progressive Democrats
Climate Justice
Climate Justice Initiative, Union Theological Seminary
ClimateMama
CodePink
College Progressives, Binghamton
Comic Club, Pratt

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Compressor Free Franklin
Computer and Information Science Club, CSI
Concerned Citizens of Otego
Concerned Residents of Oxford
Criminal Justice Club, BMCC
Criminology Club, SUNY Cortland
CSI Women's Center, CSI
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Delaware Action Group
Delta Phi Epsilon, Purchase
Delta Phi Epsilon, Queens College
Democracy for New York City
Democracy Matters, Binghamton
Democracy Matters, New Paltz
Divestment Club, New Paltz
Dream Team, Queens College
Dryden Solutions
Earth Day Initiative
Eco Ocean
Eco-Poetry.org
Economic and Business Club, Queens College
Economics Club, SUNY Cortland
Education Club, SUNY Cortland
Elders Climate Action
EldersClimateAction
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
Empire State Consumer Project
Engineer's Society, Nassau Community College
Envirolutions, Pratt
Environmental Advocates
Essence of Earth, BMCC
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Puerto Rican and Multicultural Club, Hunter
Fashion Students Association, Buffalo State
Fifth Avenue Committee
Fighting Game Association, Hunter
Flight, Queens College
Food & Water Watch
Frack Free Catskills

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Friends of Sustainable Sidney
Future Teachers Society, Queensborough Community College
Game Development Club, CSI
Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County (GDACC)
Gas Free Seneca
Gay Men's Alliance, Hunter
Gay-Straight Alliance, CSI
Geography Club, Hunter
Geology Club, Buffalo State
Geology Club, SUNY Cortland
Get Down To Business, CSI
Gift of Life, Hunter
Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, Hunter
Graduate School Psychology, Queens College
Grail Climate Action Circle
Grassroots Environmental Education
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Greater NYC for Change
Green Education and Legal Fund
Green Map System
GREEN PARTY OF NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK
GreenFaith
Guyanese Student Association, Queens College
Habitat for Humanity, SUNY Cortland
Haitian Students Association, Hunter
Hakuna Matata, Queens College
Hazon
HealthyPlanet
Hell's Kitchen Park Conservancy
Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association
Hillel Club, Queens College
Hindu Student Association (HSA), Queens College
Hindu Student Council, Binghamton
Hindu Students Association, Hunter
Hippies For Hope, SUNY Cortland
Hippies for Hope, New Paltz
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Human Relations Club, Nassau Community College

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Human Rights Program, Hunter
Hunger Action Network NYS
Hunter Muslim Students Association, Hunter
Hunter Sustainability Project, Hunter
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition
Ikaros Hellenic Orthodox Club, Queens College
Improv Club, Purchase
indivisible-larchmontwoods@googlegroups.com
Interfaith Crew, SUNY Cortland
International Connection, Binghamton
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Hunter
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc., Buffalo State
Italian Club, New Paltz
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC
Jewish Voice for Peace - New York City
Kapiwolf
Keyframe Animation Club, Pratt
Knight News, Queens College
Korean American Association of Greater New York
Korean American Student Association, Binghamton
La Familia Latina, SUNY Cortland
Latin American Student Union, Binghamton
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County
Lesbians Rising, Hunter
Life Drawing Club, BMCC
Long Island Progressive Coalition (Citizen Action of NY's LI Affiliate)
Lower East Side Ecology Center
M.A.L.E.S, Queensborough Community College
Maker Space, BMCC
Manhattan Central Medical Society
Math and Computer Club, Nassau Community College
Men Of Value and Excellence (M.O.V.E.), SUNY Cortland
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
Mock Trial Association, QCC
Model United Nations, Queens College
Mothers Out Front - ADK
Mothers Out Front - NY
Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority Inc., Buffalo State

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Muslim Student Association, Hunter
Muslim Students Association, BMCC
Muslim Students Association, Nassau Community College
Muslim Students Association, Queens College
NAACP - New York Chapter
NAACP, Buffalo State
NABA, Queens College
National Student Nurses Association, Hunter
NC 350 Alliance
NCC Student Government Association, Nassau Community College
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation
Nerdvana, Nassau Community College
Neuro, Queens College
New Economy Project
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
New York Environmental Law & Justice Project
New York Interfaith Power & Light
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York State Nurses Association
New York Students Rising, New Paltz
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
North Country 350 Alliance
North Shore Audubon Society
NSSLHA College Singers, SUNY Cortland
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Nurse Rise Nurses for Safe Water
NY Buddhist Climate Action Network
NYC Friends of Clearwater
NYH2o
NYPIRG
Olivetree Review, Hunter
Omega Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Buffalo State
Organization of African Peoples in the Americas (OAPIA), Purchase
Outing Club, Nassau Community College
P.U.S.H. (Purchase United to Subvert Hierarchy), Purchase
Palestine Solidarity Alliance, Hunter
Pan African Student Organization, Buffalo State
Parents Club, BMCC
Park Slope Methodist Church Social Action Committee
Partnership for Global Justice
PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe Energy)

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Pax Christi Metro New York
Peace Action NYS, New Paltz
Peacemakers of Schoharie County
Peacework Organic CSA, Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)
Peer Counseling, Queens College
People for a Healthy Environment, Inc.
People, Not Pipelines
People's Climate Movement-Capital Region
Philoppine-American League, Binghamton
Philosophy Club, CSI
Physics & Engineering Club, SUNY Cortland
Filipinos of Hunter, Hunter
Planned Parenthood at SUNY Purchase, Purchase
Planned Parenthood, Buffalo State
Plymouth Friends of Clean Water
Political Science Club, Queens College
Pratt C-board, Pratt
Pratt Envirolutions, Pratt
Pratt Feminists, Pratt
Pratt Student Government Association, Pratt
Pre-Med Club, SUNY Cortland
PRIDE Club, Nassau Community College
Prism QC, Queens College
Programming Board, Nassau Community College
Project Sunshine, Queens College
Protect Orange County
Public Relations Student Society Association, Buffalo State
Purchase College Green Team, Purchase
QC FANAA, Queens College
QCC Student Government Association, Queensborough Community College
Queer Pratt, Pratt
Rainforest Relief
Reef Club, Pratt
Renewable Energy Long Island
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga County (RAFT)
Riverkeeper
Rochester Defense Against Fracking
Rochester People's Climate Coalition
RochesterEnvironment.com
Roosevelt Institute, Binghamton

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Rowing Club, BMCC
Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
SAFER, SUNY Cortland
Sane Energy Project
Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens
Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition
Science Fiction and Animation Club, Queens College
Science Fiction and Animation, Queens College
Self Care Club, Purchase
Service Learning Leadership Student Club, BMCC
Sexual Health Awareness Club, SUNY Cortland
SGA Programming Board, Nassau Community College
Shaleshock CNY
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Ramapo, Catskill Group, Conservation Group
Sierra Club New York City Group
Sierra Club Niagara Group
Sikh Club, Queens College
Sikh Student Association, Hunter
Sludge Stoppers Task Force
Social Responsibilities Council, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
Society of African Studies, Queens College
Solar Seneca
South Asian Culture Club, Hunter
Southern Cayuga Anti-Fracking Alliance
Spanish Club, SUNY Cortland
SPARK, SUNY Cortland
SPEAK Magazine, SUNY Cortland
SPECTRUM, SUNY Cortland
Sports Management Club, SUNY Cortland
Stephanie Low Artists, Inc.
Stone Quarry House
Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Strawtown Studio
Student Activities Board, SUNY Cortland
Student Alliances, Queens College
Student Government, Pratt
Student Nursing Association, BMCC
Student Nursing Association, Purchase
Student Organization of Latinos, Nassau Community College

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Student Political Society, Buffalo State
Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, New Paltz
Students for Sustainable Agriculture, New Paltz
SUNY Cortland EMS (SCEMS), SUNY Cortland
SUNY Cortland Recreation Association, SUNY Cortland
SUNY Cortland Senate, SUNY Cortland
SUNY Cortland Student Government Association, SUNY Cortland
SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force
SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force, New Paltz
SUNY New Paltz Outing Club, New Paltz
Sustainability Coalition, Pratt
Sustainability Living Learning Community, New Paltz
Sustainable Flatbush
Sustainable Tompkins
Sustainable Warwick
Technology Club, SUNY Cortland
The Hydrogen Association
The I-Tones, Queens College
Theatre Company, Hunter
Thurgood Marshall Prelaw Society, Binghamton
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative
TransPAC
TriStates Unite for Safe Energy
United for Action
Urban Male Leadership, BMCC
Veterans For Peace-NYC Chapter 034
Video Game Club, BMCC
Video Production Club, BMCC
Vignette Paper, Nassau Community College
Voters Occupy
Water Equality
WE ACT For Environmental Justice
We Are Seneca Lake
Weather Medic Inc.
WESPAC
West Harlem Progressive Democratic Club - Climate Caucus
Western New York Environmental Alliance
WHCS Radio, Hunter
WNY Peace Center
Women Against War
Women of Color, SUNY Cortland

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Women's Center, CSI

Women's Rugby, New Paltz

WQMC Radio, Queens College

WSUC FM Campus Radio Station, SUNY Cortland

Yalda

Yawn Moon

Yoga for Peace, Justice and Harmony With the Planet

Yoga for the Earth

You Are My Sista, Buffalo State

Zen Mountain Monastery

Zeta Chi Omega, Buffalo State

Zeta Phi Alpha, Hunter

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Buffalo State