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4 September 2006
Our ref: BW/NT/CC

Dear Nick

Thank-you for your recent letter and accompanying copies of the 2005 ExxonMobil 'Corporate Citizenship Report' and the 'UK and Ireland Corporate Citizenship' brochure. I have read both with interest, but I am writing to express my disappointment at the inaccurate and misleading view of the science of climate change that these documents present.

In particular, I was very surprised to read the following passage from the section on Environmental performance under the sub-heading of 'Uncertainty and risk' (p.23) in the 'Corporate Citizenship Report':

"While assessments such as those of the IPCC have expressed growing confidence that recent warming can be attributed to increases in greenhouse gases, these conclusions rely on expert judgment rather than objective, reproducible statistical methods. Taken together, gaps in the scientific basis for theoretical climate models and the interplay of significant natural variability make it very difficult to determine objectively the extent to which recent climate changes might be the result of human actions."

These statements also appear, of course, in the ExxonMobil document on 'Tomorrow's Energy', which was published in February. As I mentioned during our meeting in July, these statements are very misleading. The "expert judgment" of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was actually based on objective and quantitative analyses and methods, including advanced statistical appraisals, which carefully accounted for the interplay of natural variability, and which have been independently reproduced.

Furthermore, these statements in your documents are not consistent with the scientific literature that has been published on this issue. For instance, Chapter 12 of the contribution of IPCC working group 1 to the Third Assessment Report provided an overview of scientific papers relating to the 'Detection of climate change and attribution of causes' that had been published up to the end of 2000. The chapter concluded: "In the light of new evidence and taking into account the remaining uncertainties, most of the observed warming over the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas



President Lord Rees of Ludlow
Executive Secretary Stephen Cox cvo

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of the UK, dedicated to promoting
excellence in science

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concentrations". The chapter gives a detailed overview of the evidence, citing 167 references, and points out that "The warming over the last 50 years due to anthropogenic greenhouse gases can be identified despite uncertainties in forcing due to anthropogenic sulphate aerosol and natural factors (volcanoes and solar irradiance)".

What is even more surprising about your documents' lack of consistency with the IPCC's assessment is that one of ExxonMobil's employees, Haroon Kheshgi, was one of the contributing authors on Chapter 12.

Since the publication of the IPCC Third Assessment Report in 2001, many other papers have been published which record new evidence about the causes of climate change. For instance, a major review article by the International Ad Hoc Detection and Attribution Group ('Detecting and attributing external influences on the climate system: a review of recent advances', published in the 1 May 2005 issue of the *Journal of Climate* – copy enclosed) concluded that "the recent research supports and strengthens the IPCC Third Assessment Report conclusion that 'most of the global warming over the past 50 years is likely due to the increase in greenhouse gases'". This review paper cites 147 references.

The IPCC's conclusions have been endorsed by the world's other leading scientific organisations. For example, the science academies of the G8 nations plus Brazil, China and India, in June 2005 published a joint statement on 'Global response to climate change'. This statement pointed out that "it is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities".

It is very disappointing that the ExxonMobil 2005 Corporate Citizenship Report, like 'Tomorrow's Energy', leaves readers with such an inaccurate and misleading impression of the evidence on the causes of climate change that is documented in the scientific literature. It is very difficult to reconcile the misrepresentations of climate change science in these documents with ExxonMobil's claim to be an industry leader.

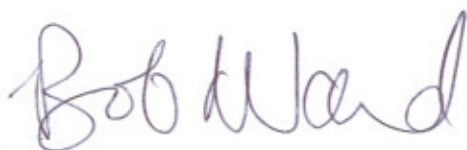
At our meeting in July, I also told you of my concerns about the support that ExxonMobil has been giving to organisations that have been misinforming the public about the science of climate change. You indicated that ExxonMobil would not be providing any further funding to these organisations. I would be grateful if you could let me know when ExxonMobil plans to carry out this pledge, and if you could provide me with a list of which organisations will no longer be receiving funding.

I have carried out an *ad hoc* survey on the websites of organisations that are listed in the ExxonMobil 2005 Worldwide Giving Report for 'public information and policy research', which is published on your website. Of those organisations whose websites feature information about climate change, I found that 25 offered views that are consistent with the scientific literature. However, some 39 organisations were featuring information on their websites that misrepresented the science of climate change, by outright denial of the evidence that greenhouse gases are driving climate change, or by overstating the amount and significance of uncertainty in knowledge, or by conveying a misleading impression of the potential impacts of anthropogenic climate change. My analysis indicates that ExxonMobil last year provided more than \$2.9 million to organisations in the United States which misinformed the public about climate change through their websites.

As you know, the Worldwide Giving Report only lists organisations in the United States which have received support from ExxonMobil. I would be grateful if you could let me know which organisations in the UK and other European countries have been receiving funding from ExxonMobil so that I can work out which of these have been similarly providing inaccurate and misleading information to the public.

I appreciate that I have raised some substantial issues in this letter, but I would be grateful to receive a prompt response from you – I have shared the contents of your documents with some climate researchers who are Fellows of the Royal Society and it would be useful to update them about whether ExxonMobil will be continuing to express views that are inconsistent with the findings of their work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'W'.

Bob Ward
Senior Manager, Policy Communication
email bob.ward@royalsoc.ac.uk



September 25, 2006

Lord Rees of Ludlow Kt PRS
President
The Royal Society
6-9 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG

Dear Lord Rees:

Recent actions and public statements by one or more representatives of the Royal Society have incorrectly and unfairly described our company and our approach to climate change.

The issues relating to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, energy use and climate change are complex and varying points of view exist on how to address the difficult, long-term technological and policy challenges.

The use of fossil fuels is a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. Given the important role that fossil fuels play in providing energy for the global economy, the issues of global economic development, future energy supply, and climate change are closely linked. In light of the interests that governments, our shareholders and customers, and the public at large have in these issues, we recently published the enclosed report entitled "*Tomorrow's Energy: A Perspective on Energy Trends, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Future Energy Options.*"

Section 2 of that report covers the topic of global climate change. This section briefly reviews what we know about the science of global climate change, including observations of the world's warming since the mid-1800s and a 30 percent increase in the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide and a doubling of methane levels. Our report states:

We recognize that the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere poses risks that may prove significant for society and ecosystems....Human activities have contributed to these increased concentrations [of greenhouse gases], mainly through the combustion of fossil fuels for energy use; land use changes (especially deforestation); and agricultural, animal husbandry and waste-disposal practices....Even with many scientific uncertainties, the risk that greenhouse gas emissions may have serious impacts justifies taking action.

ExxonMobil has undertaken climate change research for 25 years and our work has produced more than 40 papers in peer-reviewed literature (as listed on our web site: ExxonMobil.com). Our scientists serve on the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and numerous related scientific bodies. In addition, we have conducted and supported scientific, economic and technological research on climate change for more than two decades. ExxonMobil has supported major projects at such institutions as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics, Batelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Princeton University, Charles River Associates, the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction, the International Energy Agency Greenhouse Gas R & D Programme, Yale University, The University of Texas, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University.

ExxonMobil is taking action to address global climate change, including among others:

- Reporting. ExxonMobil is committed to consistent, comprehensive annual reporting of our greenhouse gas emissions, which we began in 1998 with respect to our own operations and have since expanded to include our equity interests in operations in which we share ownership. ExxonMobil encouraged and supported the development of cost-effective, reliable, industry endorsed methods to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions from the petroleum industry (through the American Petroleum Institute and International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association). We also support the enactment of federal legislation to mandate the reporting of annual greenhouse gas inventories to the U. S. Department of Energy.
- Global Climate Energy Project at Stanford University. In an effort to apply the combined resources of industry and academia to the challenge of identifying fundamental new leads for innovative technologies that meet growing energy demand while dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ExxonMobil, along with Toyota, General Electric and Schlumberger, launched the \$225 million Global Climate and Energy Project (GCEP) at Stanford University in December 2002. GCEP is the largest privately-funded, long term research program of its type in the world, with a charge to accelerate the development of commercially viable energy technologies that can lower greenhouse gas emissions on a worldwide scale. Its stated mission is "to conduct fundamental research on technologies that will permit the development of global energy systems with significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions." GCEP's current technology focus is on hydrogen production, storage and use; biomass and solar energy; carbon dioxide capture and storage; and advanced transportation and coal technologies. I have also enclosed a copy of the latest report of the important work being done by GCEP. A full list of ongoing projects is available on the GCEP web site at <http://gcep.stanford.edu>. A symposium was held this month to share progress in all these areas with the wider scientific community.
- Advanced Vehicle Technology Research. ExxonMobil is undertaking joint research on advanced vehicle technologies with Toyota and Caterpillar, to develop high efficiency, low-emission gasoline and diesel fuel engine systems.
- Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Efficiency Systems and Best Practices. ExxonMobil has reduced emissions in our own operations through improved efficiencies that have resulted from our Global Energy Management System (GEMS); reduced flaring of natural gas at production sites; and investing to expand cogeneration capacity at our refineries (at a cost of \$1 billion in 2004 - 2005). These and other actions implemented since 1999 enabled our company in 2005 to avoid 11 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, or the equivalent of taking about 2 million cars off the road. We are working now to identify and implement additional measures to more than double these reductions in the near future.

At ExxonMobil, we believe that good governance is based on good ideas - and that good ideas are based on a respect for facts, rigor in thinking, rationality in debate and civility in discourse. As the largest non-government petroleum and petrochemicals company, we seek to play a positive role in the on-going dialogue about the future of energy - one which is grounded in fact, focused on the long term and intent on finding viable solutions. Selecting appropriate policies that balance economic growth, human development and the risks of climate change is a daunting task. Managing those risks will require sequential, ongoing actions and policy decisions over many decades that will be informed by what we know and what we do not know at each period. Scientific and technical research should play a critical role in the debate by forthrightly addressing and improving our understanding of the well-known scientific and technical uncertainties inherent in climate change.

The Royal Society should welcome the diversity of opinions on all scientific issues. Taking the position that any person or organization that disagrees with the Royal Society on an important scientific issue should be publicly vilified is surely counterproductive for the development of scientific theory, ignores freedom of expression and is hardly consistent with the Society's stated objective of promoting excellence in science.

Lord Rees, when you took over as Chairman you said that the Royal Society's work should lead to a better quality of life and an increase in prosperity. Our own objective, as it relates to climate change, is to seek solutions that protect the environment but do not threaten the aspirations of the billions of people who desire and deserve a better quality of life. Is that not a worthwhile road to be on?

We have a role to play in the policy discussions on these subjects. It is disappointing that representatives of the Royal Society find it appropriate to intentionally misstate our actions and positions relating to these important topics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RCU', written in a cursive style.

Enclosures