

NO IMMUNITY for Big Oil

June 23, 2026

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Members of the Senate and House Democratic Caucuses,

As communities across the country are taking Big Oil companies to court for lying to the public about the climate harms of their products, we are alarmed by reports that the fossil fuel industry is trying to secure a legal liability waiver that would block communities from attempts to hold them accountable. The American Petroleum Institute — the largest oil and gas trade association in the country and a defendant in several climate accountability lawsuits — has announced that stopping “abusive state climate lawsuits” against fossil fuel companies is a top priority for the industry this year.¹ The statement follows reports from the Wall Street Journal² and the New York Times³ that highlighted fossil fuel lobbyists’ push for Congress to pass legislation giving the oil industry immunity from climate litigation, effectively denying access to the courts for anyone seeking to hold the industry accountable.

We’re urging you to protect our right to hold Big Oil accountable and reject any proposal that would shield fossil fuel companies from the legal and legislative efforts communities across the country are advancing to make polluters pay for the damage their climate lies and pollution has caused.

The mounting threat of climate change is being felt first-hand by our communities as worsening floods, storms, and other extreme weather events leave destruction in their wake, saddling everyday Americans and local governments with skyrocketing costs to recover, respond, and adapt to the growing crisis. The record-breaking extreme weather events walloping our communities with increasing frequency and intensity are a result of fossil fuel pollution enabled for decades by Big Oil companies and their coordinated campaign of climate deception. Oil and gas companies have known for decades that their products posed “potentially catastrophic” risk to the climate – but instead of disclosing this knowledge, they chose to run a historic and ongoing campaign to deceive the public, protect their profits, and delay our transition to cleaner and cheaper energy.⁴

Thanks to climate leadership across the country, more than one in four Americans live in a community taking Big Oil to court over its climate lies. Dozens of states, municipalities, tribes,

¹ https://www.api.org/-/media/Files/misc/2026/EnergyAgenda_2026.pdf

² <https://www.wsj.com/business/energy-oil/oil-companies-seek-trumps-help-to-thwart-climate-lawsuits-superfund-laws-7e332d0d>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/04/climate/lawsuits-superfund-trump-justice-climate.html>

⁴ e.g. <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/16092015/exxons-own-research-confirmed-fossil-fuels-role-in-global-warming/>

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and other communities are suing fossil fuel companies for lying to the public about the climate harms of their products for decades, knowingly fueling the devastating climate crisis we're facing today.⁵ Separately, state lawmakers across the country are considering climate superfund laws that would require the largest privately-owned climate polluters to help pay for the growing costs to protect public infrastructure from climate-fueled damages. These critical efforts are currently under massive threat.

State bills aimed at blocking communities from pursuing any accountability measures against the fossil fuel industry have already been introduced in Utah and Oklahoma.⁶ U.S. House Representative Harriet Hageman from Wyoming recently announced that she is working with House and Senate colleagues to craft federal legislation aimed at “tackling” climate accountability lawsuits and climate superfund bills.⁷ Sixteen Republican attorneys general have called for a legal liability shield for Big Oil modeled after the 2005 law that granted legal immunity to gun manufacturers.⁸ A Congressional appropriations bill introduced last year included language that would prohibit the District of Columbia from using any funds to enforce its consumer protection laws “against oil and gas companies for environmental claims,” clearly targeting D.C.’s ongoing climate accountability lawsuit against ExxonMobil, BP, Shell, and other oil majors.⁹ Additionally, after fossil fuel CEOs met with President Trump last year to raise their concern about the growing wave of accountability efforts, the U.S. Justice Department filed intimidation and retaliation lawsuits against states for efforts to hold polluters accountable for their climate lies and the resulting damages.¹⁰

The climate crisis is escalating every day and our communities across the country are bearing the brunt of the financial, environmental, and personal impacts. As the costs worsen and extreme weather events become more commonplace, governments, businesses, community members, and others must retain access to legal and legislative tools to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for the damage they knowingly caused.

There are many ongoing fights to protect justice, democracy, and fundamental rights that demand your attention — and we thank you for fighting to keep our communities’ rights intact. **If we do not also protect Americans’ right to hold bad actors accountable in court, we will be handing Big Oil a get-out-of-jail-free card.**

⁵ <https://climateintegrity.org/lawsuits>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/13/republicans-climate-liability-shield-fossil-fuel-industry>

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-a21mymUrE&t=12865s>

⁸ <https://www.eenews.net/articles/gop-attorneys-general-want-legal-immunity-for-fossil-fuel-industry/>

⁹ <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-appropriations.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/fy26-financial-services-and-general-government-subcommittee-mark.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://apnews.com/article/trump-doj-climate-states-policy-lawsuits-a5228e1dd6348f09d2a70f460142531a>

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We, the undersigned organizations and elected officials, respectfully urge you in the strongest possible terms to fight for climate accountability and our communities' access to the courts, and draw a line in firm opposition to any Congressional efforts to bail out climate polluters from facing legal and legislative consequences for their role in fueling the climate crisis.

Thank you for standing on the side of justice and accountability.

Sincerely,

198 methods, National
350 Network Council, National
Alaska Wilderness League, National
Amazon Watch, National
Amnesty International USA, National
Between the Waters, National
Bold Alliance, National
Center for Biological Diversity, National
Center for Climate Integrity, National
Center for Environmental Health, National
Center for International Environmental Law, National
Center for Oil & Gas Organizing, National
Citizens Climate Lobby, National
Clean Water Action, National
Climate Defenders, National
Climate Defense Project, National
Climate Hawks Vote, National
Climate Psychiatry Alliance, National
Climate Reality Project, National
Corporate Accountability, National
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, National
Earth Ethics, Inc., National
Earthjustice Action, National
Elders Climate Action, National
Elected Officials to Protect America, National
Endangered Species Coalition, National
Extinction Rebellion US, National
Extreme Weather Survivors, National
Food & Water Watch, National
Fossil Free Media, National
Fridays for Future USA, National
Friends of the Earth Action, National
GreenFaith, National
GreenLatinos, National

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Greenpeace USA, National
Health in Partnership, National
Health Resources in Action, National
Healthy Ocean Coalition, National
Hip Hop Caucus, National
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program, National
Law Students for Climate Accountability, National
Lead Locally, National
League of Conservation Voters, National
Make Polluters Pay Campaign, National
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, National
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future, National
Methane Action, National
Moms Clean Air Force, National
Mothers Out Front, National
Native Organizers Alliance, National
Natural Resources Defense Council, National
Ocean Defense Initiative, National
Oil and Gas Action Network, National
Oil Change International, National
Oncology Advocates United for Climate and Health, National
Our Revolution, National
Physicians for Social Responsibility, National
Prevention Institute, National
Progressives for Climate, National
Public Citizen, National
Rainforest Action Network, National
Rogan's List, National
Scientist Rebellion Turtle Island, National
Sierra Club, National
Stand.Earth, National
Stop the Money Pipeline, National
Sunrise Movement, National
The Rachel Carson Council, National
The YEARS Project, National
Third Act, National
Undaunted K-12, National
Union of Concerned Scientists, National
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community, National
WildEarth Guardians, National
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network, National
Youth Climate Finance Alliance, National
Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Regional (MD, VA, DC)
Conservation Law Foundation, Regional (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)
Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast, Regional (Northeast)

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Quaker Action Mid Atlantic Region, Regional (DE, MD, NJ, PA)
Western Environmental Law Center, Regional (OR, WA, NM, MT, CO)
Tidelines Institute, Alaska
Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Alaska
Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Alaska
Fairbanks Climate Action, Alaska
Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action, Arizona
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations, California
350 Bay Area Action, California
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley, California
350 Sacramento, California
350 Santa Barbara, California
350 San Francisco, California
Alliance of Californians For Community Empowerment, California
Aquarian Minyan, California
Bay Area-System Change not Climate Change, California
California Communities Against Toxics, California
California Environmental Voters, California
California State PTA, California
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, California
Center for Environmental Health, California
Central California Environmental Justice Network, California
Change Begins With ME Indivisible, California
Climate Action California, California
Climate Hawks Vote, California
Climate Health Now, California
Climate Justice Group, First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, California
Climate Reality Project Orange County, California
Climate Reality Project, Silicon Valley Chapter, California
CLUE-SB Environmental Justice Group, California
CODEPINK Sonoma County, California
Courage California, California
Direct Action Everywhere, California
Dr. Bronner's, California
Elders Climate Action - Northern California Chapter, California
Elders Climate Action - Southern California Chapter, California
Encinal Environmental Club, California
Extinction Rebellion of San Francisco Bay Area
First Unitarian Church of San Jose, California
Fossil Free California, California
Fossil Free California Votes, California
Fridays For Future Palo Alto , California
Frontline Catalysts, California
Friends Committee on Legislation of California, California
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy, California

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Indivisible East Bay, California
Indivisible Orchard City Environmental Justice, California
Indivisible Santa Cruz County, Environmental Issues Team, California
Indivisible Westside LA, California
Ocean Conservation Research, California
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles, California
Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco Bay, California
Protect Monterey County, California
SanDiego350, California
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network, California
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, California
Sunflower Alliance, California
Sunrise Bay Area, California
Sunrise Movement, California
Sunrise Movement Berkeley High, California
The Center for Oil and Gas Organizing, California
The Climate Center, California
Third Act Sacramento, California
Third Act SoCal, California
Turtle Island Restoration Network, California
WildEarth Guardians, California
Youthpower Climate Action, California
Youth v. Oil, California
350 Colorado, Colorado
Broomfield Health and Safety First, Colorado
Clean Energy Action, Colorado
Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate, Colorado
Colorado Jewish Climate Action, Colorado
Community for Sustainable Energy, Colorado
Climate Reality Project, Denver Metro Chapter, Colorado
Climate Reality Project, Northern Colorado Chapter, Colorado
ClimateVoice, Colorado
Energy Smart Colorado, Colorado
FoCo Trash Mob, Colorado
Fort Collins Sustainability Group, Colorado
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, and the Environment, Colorado
Mi Familia En Accion, Colorado
Mi Familia Vota, Colorado
Neighbor to Neighbor, Colorado
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Colorado Chapter, Colorado
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith, Colorado
Save the Aurora Reservoir, Colorado
Sunrise Movement Denver Hub, Colorado
The Green House Connection Center, Colorado
Third Act Colorado, Colorado

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Wind & Solar Denver, Colorado
Common Sense Fund, Connecticut
Connecticut Citizen Action Group, Connecticut
CT Climate Crisis Mobilization, Connecticut
CT Energy Network, Connecticut
CT Northeast Organic Farming Association, Connecticut
Electric Vehicle Club of CT, Connecticut
Environmental Justice task force, Unitarian Society of New Haven, Connecticut
Everyone Outside, Connecticut
Norwalk River Watershed Association, Connecticut
People's Action for Clean Energy, Connecticut
Portland Clean Energy Task Force, Connecticut
Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter, Connecticut
Sunrise Wesleyan and Environmental Solidarity Network (of Wesleyan), Connecticut
The Climate Reality Project Southern CT Chapter, Connecticut
Third Act CT, Connecticut
Voting Citizen, Connecticut
Wesleyan University Sustainability Office, Connecticut
Third Act - Florida Working Group, Florida
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!, Florida
Third Act Georgia, Georgia
350 Hawai'i, Hawai'i
Hawai'i Public Health Association, Hawai'i
Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Hawai'i
350 Chicago, Illinois
Accelerate Climate Solutions, Illinois
AFGE Local 704, Illinois
Chicago Wilderness Alliance, Illinois
Climate Reality Chicago Metro Chapter, Illinois
Faith in Place Action Fund, Illinois
Go Green Wilmette, Illinois
Illinois Clinicians for Climate Action, Illinois
Illinois Environmental Council, Illinois
Illinois People's Action, Illinois
Interfaith Green Network, Oak Park/River Forest, Illinois
It's Our Future, Illinois
Metro East Green Alliance, Illinois
Oak Park Climate Action Network, Illinois
Open Lands, Illinois
Prairie State Conservation Coalition, Illinois
Respiratory Health Association, Illinois
Save Our Illinois Land, Illinois
Seven Generations Ahead, Illinois
The Electric Home Company, Illinois
The People's Lobby, Illinois

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Third Act Illinois, Illinois
Windfree Solar, Illinois
WindSolarUSA, Inc, Illinois
Women For Green Spaces, Illinois
Working Family Solidarity, Illinois
Green EC, Indiana
ARRT!, Maine
Center for an Ecology Based Economy, Maine
GrowSmart Maine, Maine
LumenARTT!, Maine
Maine Climate Action Now, Maine
Maine Conservation Voters, Maine
Maine People's Alliance, Maine
Maine Youth for Climate Justice, Maine
Natural Resources Council of Maine, Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine, Maine
Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast, Maine
Sierra Club Maine Chapter, Maine
Third Act Central Maine, Maine
Third Act Maine, Maine
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry, Maryland
Climate First!, Maryland
Healthy Climate Maryland, Maryland
Laurel Resist, Maryland
Baltimore Phil Berrigan Memorial Veterans for Peace, Maryland
The Legacy of a Livable Planet, Maryland
Animals are Sentient Beings, Inc, Massachusetts
Better Future Project, Massachusetts
Boston Catholic Climate Movement, Massachusetts
Climate Code Blue, Massachusetts
Elders Climate Action Massachusetts, Massachusetts
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, Massachusetts
Our Revolution Massachusetts, Massachusetts
Third Act Massachusetts, Massachusetts
Worcester Congregations for Climate and Environmental Justice, Massachusetts
The Enviro Show, Massachusetts
Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, Michigan
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action, Michigan
Flow Water Advocates, Michigan
Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Michigan
100% Minnesota, Minnesota
Alliance for Sustainability, Minnesota
Austin Chapter 10 Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota
Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, Minnesota
Clean Water Action Minnesota, Minnesota

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CURE, Minnesota
DFL Environmental Caucus, Minnesota
Eureka Recycling, Minnesota
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate, Minnesota
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Minnesota
Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Minnesota
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, Minnesota
Minnesota Public Health Association, Minnesota
Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition, Minnesota
MN Div. - Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota
MN350 Action, Minnesota
North American Water Office, Minnesota
Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, Minnesota
Third Act Minnesota, Minnesota
Vote Climate, Minnesota
WaterLegacy, Minnesota
Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana
350NH Action, New Hampshire
350NJ - Rockland, New Jersey
Climate Changers, New Jersey
Climate Reality Project North New Jersey, New Jersey
Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains, New Jersey
DivestNJ, New Jersey
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition, New Jersey
Empower NJ, New Jersey
Environmental Communion NJ UCC, New Jersey
Highland Park Ecology and Environmental Group, New Jersey
Moveon.org HobokenRESIST!, New Jersey
NAACP Willingboro, New Jersey
Progressive Democrats of America New Jersey Chapter, New Jersey
Sunrise Woolwich, New Jersey
Third Act New Jersey, New Jersey
Waterspirit, New Jersey
Tewa Women United, New Mexico
350NYC, New York
Climate Families NYC, New York
Coalition to Protect New York, New York
Concerned Health Professional of New York, New York
New Yorkers for Clean Power, New York
Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow, New York
Third Act Upstate New York, New York
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, New York
350 Triangle, North Carolina
Carolina Advocates for Climate, Health, and Equity, North Carolina
350 Deschutes, Oregon

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350 Eugene, Oregon
350 Salem Oregon, Oregon
350PDX, Oregon
Beyond Toxics, Oregon
Breach Collective, Oregon
Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon
Clean Energy Commercialization, Oregon
Climate Solutions, Oregon
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter, Oregon
Coast Range Association, Oregon
Divest Oregon: Reinvest in a Fossil Free Future, Oregon
Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, Oregon
Earth Neighborhood Productions, Oregon
Electrify Now, Oregon
Extinction Rebellion Eugene, Oregon
Food & Water Watch, Oregon
Mobilizing Climate Action Together, Oregon
NW Energy Coalition, Oregon
Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon
Oregon Just Transition Alliance, Oregon
Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon
Our Future, Oregon
Passive House Northwest, Oregon
Planet versus Pentagon, Oregon
Rahab's Sisters, Oregon
Rogue Climate, Oregon
SEIU Local 503, Oregon
Sierra Club Oregon, Oregon
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, Oregon
Sustainable Solutions Newberg Dundee, Oregon
Third Act Oregon, Oregon
Umpqua Watersheds, Oregon
Verde, Oregon
ZERO Coalition, Oregon
Montgomery County Climate Mobilization, Pennsylvania
Physicians for Social Responsibility PA, Pennsylvania
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania
Jewish Earth Alliance - PA, Pennsylvania
Protect PT, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Solar Energy Association, Pennsylvania
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community, Pennsylvania
Climate Jobs Rhode Island, Rhode Island
Rhode Island AFL-CIO, Rhode Island
Fuerza Laboral, Rhode Island

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Climate Action Rhode Island, Rhode Island
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, Utah
Community Rides Vermont, Vermont
Vermont Climate and Health Alliance, Vermont
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light, Vermont
Vermont Community Thermal Networks, Vermont
Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vermont
Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Vermont
2028 Is Too Late, Washington
350 Eastside, Washington
350 Seattle, Washington
350 Tacoma, Washington
350 Yakima Climate Action, Washington
43rd District Democrats, Washington
Building Potential, Washington
Catholic Climate Covenant, Washington
Climate Action Families, Washington
Climate Action of Southwest Washington, Washington
Climate Solutions, Washington
Code Pink, Washington
Divest Washington, Washington
Duwamish River Community Coalition, Washington
Elevate, Washington
Firelands Workers United / Trabajadores Unidos, Washington
Got Green, Washington
NW Energy Coalition, Washington
Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington, Washington
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, Washington
Puget Sound Sage, Washington
Restart Washington, Washington
Saltwater Climate Action Now, Washington
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition, Washington
Sightline Institute, Washington
South Seattle Climate Action Network, Washington
The Center for Responsible Forestry, Washington
The Washington Bus, Washington
Third Act Washington, Washington
UTOPIA Washington, Washington
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Washington
Washington State 43rd LD Democrats, Washington
Rise Up WV, West Virginia
350 Wisconsin, Wisconsin