NO IMMUNITY for Big Oil

Nov 9, 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 Journal[2] and the New York Times[3] 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,

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[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.**

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[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 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,

Alaska
Elvi Gray-Jackson, State Senator
Genevieve Mina, State Representative
Andy Josephson, State Representative

Arizona
Joysaphine Waitman-Powell, Commissioner, Peoria

California
Nikki Perez, Councilmember, Burbank
Freddy Puza, Mayor, Culver City
Bob Blumenfield, City Councilmember, Los Angeles
Chelsea Byers, Councilmember, West Hollywood
Nichelle Henderson, Trustee, Los Angeles Community College District
Dr. Rocio Rivas, School Board Member, Los Angeles Community College District

Colorado
Cathy Kipp, State Senator and President Pro Tempore
Judy Amabile, State Senator
Adrienne Benavidez, State Senator
Lisa Cutter, State Senator
Tony Exum Sr., State Senator
Julie Gonzales, State Senator
Iman Jodeh, State Senator
Chris Kolker, State Senator
Marc Snyder, State Senator
Katie Wallace, State Senator
Mike Weissman, State Senator
Elizabeth Velasco, State Senator
Junie Joseph, State Representative
Kenny Van Nguyen, State Representative

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Jessica Campbell, County Commissioner, Arapahoe County
Ashley Stolzmann, County Commissioner, Boulder County
Matt Scherr, County Commissioner, Eagle County
John Kefalas, County Commissioner, Larimer County
Greg Poschman, County Commissioner, Pitkin County
Thomas D McCracken, County Commissioner, Saguache County
Lance Waring, County Commissioner, San Miguel
Gianina Horton, City Councilmember, Aurora
Shawna Ambrose, City Councilmember, Arvada
Hannah Berman, Mayor Pro Tem, Basalt
Aaron Brockett, Mayor, Boulder
Guyleen Castriotta, Mayor, Broomfield City and County
Jean Lim, Mayor Pro Tem, Broomfield
Paloma Delgadillo, City Councilor, Broomfield
Sean McKenzie, City Councilor, Broomfield
Don B. Cameron, City Councilor, Golden
Geoffrey Grimmer, Councilmember, Eagle
Gina McCrackin, Councilmember, Eagle
Frederick Ihnken, Mayor, Frisco
Joshua Cooperman, City Councilor, Louisville
Anne Lee Foster, Mayor Pro Tem, Paonia

Claire Carmelia, Mayor, Westminster
Obi Ezeadi, City Councilmember, Westminster

Connecticut
Saud Anwar, State Senator
Nick Menapace, State Representative
MJ Shannon, State Representative
Steven Winter, State Representative
Anne Weisberg, Planning and Zoning Commissioner, Sherman
Tyron Harris, Board of Education Chair, East Hartford

Delaware
Sophie Phillips, State Representative
Dee Durham, Councilmember, New Castle
Maria D. Cabrera, City Councilmember, Wilmington

Hawai‘i

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Dan Ahuna, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee, Kauaʻi and Niʻihau
Luana Alapa, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee, Molokaʻi & Lānaʻi
Stanley Chang, State Senator
Mike Gabbard, State Senator
Jarrett Keohokālole, State Senator
Della Au Belatti, State Representative
Kim Coco Iwamoto, State Representative
Mike Lee, State Representative
Nicole Lowen, State Representative
Lisa Marten, State Representative
Amy Perruso, State Representative
Mahina Poepoe, State Representative
Adrian Tam, State Representative
Heather Kimball, Councilmember, Hawaiʻi County
Rebecca Villegas, Councilmember, Hawaiʻi County
Matt Weyer, Councilmember, City and County of Honolulu
Tamara Paltin, Councilmember, Lahaina, Maui County
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Councilmember, Molokaʻi, Maui County
Shane Sinenci, Councilmember, East Maui, Maui County
Gabe Johnson, Councilmember, Lānaʻi, Maui County

Illinois
Robyn Gabel, House Majority Leader
Graciela Guzman, State Senator
Rachel Ventura, State Senator
Carol Ammons, State Representative
Dagmara Avelar, State Representative
Mary Beth Canty, State Representative
Kelly Cassidy, State Representative
Will Guzzardi, State Representative
Norma Hernandez, State Representative
Lilian Jimenez, State Representative
Theresa Mah, State Representative
Bridget Degnen, County Commissioner, Cook County
John Laesch, Mayor, Aurora
Maria Hadden, Alderwoman and Chairwoman of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy, Chicago
Matthew Martin, Alderman, Chicago
Gilbert Villegas, Alderman, Chicago
Daniel Biss, Mayor, Evanston

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Derek Eder, Village Trustee, Oak Park
Jason Ashmore, Mayor, Sesser

Iowa
Mandi Remington, County Supervisor

Maine
Lori Gramlich, Assistant House Majority Leader
Stacey Brenner, State Senator
Anne Carney, State Senator
Henry Ingwersen, State Senator
Denise Tepler, State Senator
Mike Tipping, State Senator
Daniel Ankeles, State Representative
Poppy Arford, State Representative
Arthur Bell, State Representative
Sally Jeane Cluchey, State Representative
Flavia DeBrito, State Representative
Jan Dodge, State Representative
Victoria Doudera, State Representative, Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Sean Faircloth, State Representative
Gary Friedmann, State Representative
Sharon Frost, State Representative
Cheryl A. Golek, State Representative
Anne P Graham, State Representative
Allison Hepler, State Representative
Amy Kuhn, State Representative
Grayson Lookner, State Representative
Rafael Macias, State Representative
Marc Malon, State Representative
Laurie Osher, State Representative
Bill Pluecker, State Representative
Mike Ray, State Representative
Morgan Rielly, State Representative
Melanie Sachs, State Representative
David A. Sinclair, State Representative
Sophia Warren, State Representative
Azalea Cormier, Town Selectman, Buckfield
Nathan Davis, City Councilor, Rockland
April Fournier, City Councilor, Portland

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Jean M. Guzzetti, City Councilor, Bath
Sean Mahoney, Town Councilor, Falmouth
Avery Seuter, Town Selectman, Wells

Maryland
Lorig Charkoudian, State Delegate
Gabriel Maximilian Moreno, Esq., State Delegate
Jen Terrasa, State Delegate
Denise Mitchell, Council Member, College Park

Massachusetts
Mike Connolly, State Representative
Lisa Field, State Representative
Jim Hawkins, State Representative
Natalie Higgins, State Representative
Brian W. Murray, State Representative
Tram Nguyen, State Representative
Greg Schwartz, State Representative
Erika Uyterhoeven, State Representative
Charles Bloom, Town Councilor, Barnstable
Michael P Cahill, Mayor, Beverly
Michelle Wu, Mayor, Boston
Liz Breadon, City Council President, Boston
Ruthzee Louijeune, City Councilor, Boston
Enrique J. Pepén, City Councilor, Boston
Ben Weber, City Councilor, Boston
Brian Worrell, City Councilor & Environmental Justice Committee Chair, Boston
Moises M. Rodrigues, Mayor, Brockton
Ayah A. Al-Zubi, City Councilor, Cambridge
Marc McGovern. City Councilor, Cambridge
Patricia Nolan, City Councilor, Cambridge
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, City Councilor, Cambridge
Roberto Jimenez-Rivera, City Council President, Chelsea
Robert J. Van Campen, Mayor, Everett
Stephanie Martins, City Councilor, Everett
Katy Rogers, City Councilor, Everett
Sam Squailia, Mayor, Fitchburg
Dylan C. Benson, City Councilor, Gloucester
Katherine Golub, City Councilor, Greenfield
Peter Cunningham, Select Board Chairman, Groton

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Ahmet Corapcioglu, Select Board, Harvard
Brian P. LaPierre, City Councilor, Lynn
Gary Christenson, Mayor, Malden
Carey McDonald, City Councilor, Malden
Stephen Winslow, City Councilor, Malden
Zac Bears, City Council President, Medford
Cody Jacobs, Select Board Member, Natick
Cyrus P. Dahmubed, Councilor, Newton
Stephen C. Farrell, Councilor, Newton
Marc Laredo, Mayor, Newton
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Laura Wagner, Town Councilor, North Attleborough
Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor, Northampton
Erin Turowski, City Councilor, Salem
Jake Wilson, Mayor, Somerville
Jon Link, City Councilor, Somerville
Naima Sait, City Councilor, Somerville
Phillip Duarte, City Councilor, Taunton
Caroline Bays, City Councilor, Watertown
Tony Palomba, City Councilor, Watertown
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Charles S. Rose, Select Board Chair, Worthington

Michigan
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Scott Benson, Councilman, Detroit
Angela J Rogensues, City Council President, Warren

Minnesota
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D. Scott Dibble, State Senator
Omar Fateh, State Senator
John Marty, State Senator
Jennifer A. McEwen, State Senator
Sandy Pappas, State Senator
Erin Maye Quade, State Senator
Ned Carroll, State Representative
Sandra Feist, State Representative
Larry Kraft, State Representative
Katie Jones, State Representative

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Dave Pinto, State Representative
Kari Rehrauer, State Representative
Jason Chavez, City Councilor, Minneapolis
Gary Hansen, City Councilor, Eagan
Soren Stevenson, City Councilor, Minneapolis

Montana
Mary Ann Dunwell, State Senator

New Hampshire
Alexis Simpson, House Democratic Leader
David H. Watters, State Senator
Peter Bixby, State Representative
Tony Caplan, State Representative
Thomas Cormen, State Representative
Jim Gruber, State Representative
Kat McGhee, State Representative
Wendy Thomas, State Representative

New Jersey
Angela V. McKnight, State Senator
William “Bill” O’Dea, County Commissioner, Hudson County
Kaleem Shabazz, Councilmember, Atlantic City
Susan Poage, Councilmember, Berkeley Heights
Shana Greenblatt, Councilmember, Bradley Beach
Robert H Conley, Mayor, Borough of Madison
Brandon Bernier, Councilmember, Roselle
Nancy J Adams, Township Committeewoman, Maplewood
Pamela Renee, Councilmember, Neptune City
David E. Cohen, Council Member, Princeton

New Mexico
Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, State Senator
Debbie Sariñana, State Representative
Randall Ryti, Councilmember, Los Alamos
Hank Hughes, County Commissioner, Santa Fe

New York
Jabari Brisport, State Senator
Samra Brouk, State Senator

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Michelle Hinchey, State Senator
Liz Krueger, State Senator
Shelley Mayer, State Senator
Julia Salazar, State Senator
Emily Gallagher, State Assemblymember
Dr. Anna R. Kelles, State Assemblymember
Dana Levenberg, State Assemblymember
Linda B. Rosenthal, State Assemblymember
Sarahana Shrestha, State Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon, State Assemblymember
Tony Simone, State Assemblymember
Michaelle Solages, State Assemblymember
Phara Souffrant Forrest, State Assemblymember
Albert A. Stirpe, Jr., State Assemblymember
Sam Fein, Chief City Auditor, Albany
Harvey Epstein, Council Member, New York City
Christopher Marte, Council Member, New York City

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Eric Ager, Representative
Cynthia Ball, State Representative
Kanika Brown, State Representative
Deb Butler, State Representative
Maria Cervania, State Representative
Amanda Cook, State Representative
Julia Greenfield, State Representative
Pricey Harrison, State Representative
Carolyn Logan, State Representative
Rodney D. Pierce, State Representative
Renée A. Price, State Representative
Marcia Morey, State Representative
Julie von Haefen, State Representative
Amos L. Quick III, State Representative
Leonardo Williams, Mayor, Durham
TJ Cawley, Mayor, Morrisville

North Dakota
Tim Mathern, State Senator

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Oregon
Christina Stephenson, Commissioner, Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries
Sara Gelser Blouin, State Senator
Jeff Golden, State Senator
Chris Gorsek, State Senator
Kayse Jama, State Senator
Deb Patterson, State Senator
Khanh Pham, State Senator
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Farrah Chaichi, State Representative
Willy Chotzen, State Representative
Mark Gamba, State Representative
Dacia Grayber, State Representative
Lesly Magdalena Muñoz, State Representative
Rob Nosse, State Representative
Jules Walters, State Representative
Meghan Moyer, County Commissioner, Multnomah County
Shannon Singleton, County Commissioner, Multnomah County
Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, Multnomah County
Jamie Dunphy, City Council President, Portland
Candace Avalos, City Councilor, Portland
Olivia Clark, City Councilor, Portland
Mitch Green, City Councilor, Portland
Sameer Kanal, City Councilor, Portland
Tiffany Koyama Lane, City Councilor, Portland
Angelita Morillo, City Councilor, Portland
Steve Novick, City Councilor, Portland
Elana Pirtle-Guiney, City Councilor, Portland

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Carolyn T. Comitta, State Senator
Greg Vitali, State Representative
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Robert L. Zeigler, Councilmember, Millheim Borough
Kayla Portis, Mayor, Sharpsburg

Rhode Island
Dawn Euer, State Senator
Meghan E Kallman, State Senator

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Linda Ujifusa, State Senator
Lammis J. Vargas, State Senator
Bridget Valverde, State Senator
Samuel Zurier, State Senator
David A.Bennett, State Representative
Jennifer Boylan, State Representative
Lauren Carson, State Representative
Terri-Denise Cortvriend, State Representative
Arthur Handy, State Representative
Jason Knight, State Representative
Michelle McGaw, State Representative
Teresa Tanzi, State Representative

Tennessee
Heidi Campbell, State Senator
Gloria Johnson, State Representative
Justin Jones, State Representative
Jason Powell, State Representative
Gabby Salinas, State Representative

Texas
Brigid Shea, County Commissioner, Travis

Vermont
John Rodgers, Lieutenant Governor
Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
Mike Pieciak, State Treasurer
Philip Baruth, President Pro Tempore
Seth Bongartz, State Senator
Thomas Chittenden, State Senator
Martine Gulick, State Senator
Ruth Hardy, State Senator
Wendy Harrison, State Senator
Ginny Lyons, State Senator
Andrew Perchlik, State Senator
Rob Plunkett, State Senator
Kesha Ram Hinsdale, State Senator
Tanya Vyhovsky, State Senator
Anne Watson, State Senator
Rebecca “Becca” White, State Senator

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Jill Krowinski, Speaker of the House
Sarah “Sarita” Austin, State Representative
John L. Bartholomew, State Representative
Daisy Berbeco, State Representative
Tiffany Bluemle, State Representative
Michelle Bos-Lun, State Representative
Jana Brown, State Representative
Mollie S. Burke, State Representative
R. Scott Campbell, State Representative
Conor Casey, State Representative
Brian Cina, State Representative
Esme Cole, State Representative
Wendy Critchlow, State Representative
Leonora Dodge, State Representative
Karen Dolan, State Representative
Leslie Goldman, State Representative
Edye Graning, State Representative
Troy Headrick, State Representative
Kathleen James, State Representative
Bram Kleppner, State Representative
Martin LaLonde, State Representative
Kate Logan, State Representative
James Masland, State Representative
Kate McCann, State Representative
Jubilee McGill, State Representative
Marc B. Mihaly, State Representative
Kristi Morris, State Representative
Christopher Morrow, State Representative
Michael Mrowicki, State Representative
John O’Brien, State Representative
Carol Ode, State Representative
Phil Pouech, State Representative
Monique Priestley, State Representative
Barbara Rachelson, State Representative
Larry Satcowitz, State Representative
Amy Sheldon, State Representative
Laura Sibilia, State Representative
Trevor Squirrell, State Representative
Thomas Stevens, State Representative
Mary-Katherine Stone, State Representative

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Chloe Tomlinson, State Representative
Dara Torre, State Representative
Theresa A. M. Wood, State Representative
David Yacovone, State Representative

Virginia
John Taylor Chapman, City Councilmember, Alexandria

Washington
Beth Doglio, State Representative
Lisa Parshley, State Representative
Jani Hitchen, Councilmember, Pierce
Chris Roberts, Councilmember, Shoreline
Melissa Stuart, City Council President, Redmond
Angela Birney, Mayor, Redmond

Washington, D.C.
Steven M. McCarty, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner

Wisconsin
Chris Larson, State Senator
Melissa Ratcliff, State Senator
Jody Spencer, County Supervisor, Racine
Bryan Kennedy, Mayor, Glendale
Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor, Madison
Casey Drengler, City Council Vice President, Sun Prairie

392 / 30 states + Washington DC