



State of California
Office of the Attorney General

ROB BONTA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 22, 2026

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
U.S. House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
370 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Members:

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges we face. Heat waves, droughts, severe storms, forest fires, and sea level rise are impacting virtually every part of our country, and those conditions continue to worsen. Scientists predict that, before long, the consequences could be catastrophic.

Yet even as the severe harms of the climate crisis continue to mount across our country, and gas prices continue to climb, with fossil fuel companies enjoying record-breaking profits, the fossil fuel industry is demanding that it be placed above the law. Senator Ted Cruz (TX) and Representative Harriet Hageman (WY) recently introduced the “[Stop Climate Shakedowns Act](#),” H.R. 8330 and S. 4340. The bill purports to provide immunity to the fossil fuel industry from litigation or state laws that would impose liability on fossil fuel companies for “past or future harm resulting directly or indirectly from climate change, including because of marketing, alleged misrepresentation, alleged failure to warn, or any other speech.”

We, the undersigned law enforcement officers and public officials, strongly oppose this bill—or any similar effort—and urge you to do the same.

Together, we represent nearly one in four Americans, and we have brought lawsuits challenging long-running climate deception by fossil fuel companies in courts in 13 states. While our lawsuits vary in terms of the claims asserted and the defendants named, they all allege that defendant fossil fuel companies violated state laws by deceiving consumers. They allege, among other things, that the defendant fossil fuel companies have known since at least the 1960s that the use of their products would warm the planet and change our climate, and that those companies not only suppressed that knowledge but affirmatively denied and sowed doubt about climate science and the climate harms of their products in their public statements and marketing. Among other injuries, this deception worsened the climate crisis faced by our residents, who are now paying the price to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from these ongoing harms. Some cases also allege that fossil fuel companies have continued marketing their products and companies as environmentally friendly with a series of deceptive advertisements and marketing campaigns.

Our cases fall well within a traditional area of sovereign state authority—protecting consumers from deceptive business practices—and these cases are appropriately proceeding in state courts. Some cases have been dismissed and some are currently stayed (in whole or in part), while other cases are advancing toward trial in state courts after having survived motions to dismiss on various grounds. Additionally, the U.S. Supreme Court has granted review of one case in the coming term. But with each effort to appropriately pursue accountability for legal violations in court, industry lobbyists and their allies have intensified the political pressure campaign to shield the industry’s unlawful conduct from review by judges and juries.

This legislation would undermine states’, tribes’, and municipalities’ well-established authority to enforce their own laws to protect the health and safety of their residents. States, tribes, and municipalities have the right to utilize state laws to hold wrongdoers accountable in many industries. The state laws we rely on in our suits against fossil fuel industry defendants have been used successfully to obtain relief for our residents for deceptive practices regarding, for example, prescriptions for opioids, the sale of tobacco products, the use of dangerous chemicals, and addictive social media practices. See *United States v. Michigan*, 817 F. Supp. 3d 630, 636-39 (W.D. Mich. 2026) (summarizing examples of such actions). This bill, if enacted, would create a threatening precedent, incentivizing other industries to seek immunity from the state laws that we use to protect our states and our residents from deception.

We know the fossil fuel industry is seeking Congressional absolution. The American Petroleum Institute, the fossil fuel industry’s largest trade association in the U.S., declared that [a 2026 priority](#) is to “protect U.S. energy producers and consumers from abusive state climate lawsuits.” The fossil fuel industry, the White House, Republican Attorneys General, and several state legislatures have been working in concert to advance that goal. And [recent reporting](#) exposed that a network of industry front groups and special interests is tightly coordinating and funding this campaign. Their intentions are clear: they want to lock Americans out of their own courthouses and place fossil fuel companies above the law—and beyond legitimate attempts to hold them responsible for their misconduct.

As we celebrate 250 years since America declared its independence from a monarchy, we should renew the bedrock principles our nation was founded upon, not betray them. Therefore, we, the undersigned law enforcement officers and public officials from across the country, urge you to strongly oppose these and any similar efforts to grant any form of legislative immunity to fossil fuel companies from moving forward, whether in a reconciliation package, an appropriations bill, or authorizing legislation. No one is above the law. Opposing this legislation ensures that this fundamental principle of democracy remains intact.

Sincerely,



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Attorney General of Connecticut



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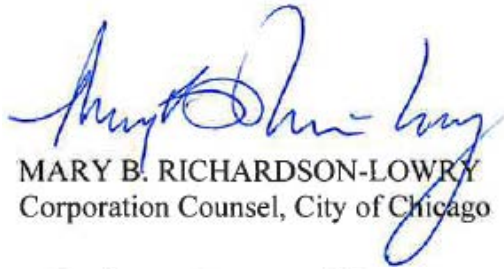


QUENTIN SWANSON
Chairman, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe

Ranking Members

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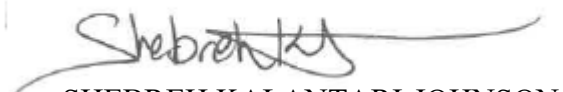
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