



**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2016 8:41 AM  
**To:** Simons, Lucas  
**Subject:** FW: California to investigate whether Exxon Mobil lied about climate-change risks - LA Times

You want to take a crack at this for something a little different than constituent letters?

-----Original Message-----

From: Liias, Sen. Marko  
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 11:45 PM  
To: Kohlwes, Curt <Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov>  
Subject: California to investigate whether Exxon Mobil lied about climate-change risks - LA Times

We should work on a letter requesting a similar investigation here

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-exxon-global-warming-20160120-story.html>

Thanks,  
Marko

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Simons, Lucas  
**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2016 1:12 PM  
**To:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Subject:** RE: California to investigate whether Exxon Mobil lied about climate-change risks - LA Times  
**Attachments:** Exxon AG letter.docx

Here 's a first draft of a letter to the AG. Mentioned the [Business Opportunity Fraud Act](#), [Securities Act](#), and [Consumer Protection Act](#) for business fraud. Wasn't sure which environmental laws or regulations would be applicable. I didn't see anything in the WAC under any of the Department of Ecology titles that seemed applicable.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kohlwes, Curt  
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 8:41 AM  
To: Simons, Lucas <Lucas.Simons@leg.wa.gov>  
Subject: FW: California to investigate whether Exxon Mobil lied about climate-change risks - LA Times

You want to take a crack at this for something a little different than constituent letters?

-----Original Message-----

From: Liias, Sen. Marko  
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 11:45 PM  
To: Kohlwes, Curt <Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov>  
Subject: California to investigate whether Exxon Mobil lied about climate-change risks - LA Times

We should work on a letter requesting a similar investigation here

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-exxon-global-warming-20160120-story.html>

Thanks,  
Marko

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Simons, Lucas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016 10:06 AM  
**To:** Lias, Sen. Marko  
**Cc:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Subject:** letter to AG requesting investigation of Exxon  
**Attachments:** Exxon AG letter.docx

Here's a draft of the letter to AG requesting an investigation like the ones in [California](#) and [New York](#)

Wasn't sure which environmental laws or regulations would be good to mention in the letter. I didn't see anything in the WAC under any of the Department of Ecology titles that seemed applicable.



March 7, 2016

The Honorable Bob Ferguson  
Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
PO Box 40100  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0100

Dear Attorney General Ferguson:

I am writing to request an investigation into whether Exxon Mobil Corp. committed securities fraud or violated environmental laws of Washington State by repeatedly lying to the public and shareholders about the risk to its business from climate change.

Investigations by the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets have indicated that Exxon scientists confirmed fossil fuels' role in climate change decades ago, but top executives decided to hide the truth and instead embarked on a campaign of denial and disinformation. As I am sure you are aware, the Washington Consumer Protection Act declares that unfair and deceptive practices in trade or commerce are illegal. As well, the Business Opportunity Fraud Act and the Securities Act were meant to protect against this kind of fraud by public companies.

I thank you for the leadership you've shown on environmental issues and fighting for the people of Washington State. Climate change is the defining issue of our time that is going to have dire consequences for future generations if we do not act to slow it. If our country's largest oil company has fraudulently denied the existence of anthropogenic climate change for their own business interests, that company should be persecuted to the full extent of the law. I strongly encourage you investigate this matter and, if a violation or violations are found, I implore you to prosecute the offenders on behalf of the people of Washington.

Respectfully,

Sen. Marko Liias  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

**From:** Lias, Sen. Marko  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016 10:27 AM  
**To:** Simons, Lucas  
**Cc:** Kohlwes, Curt, Manugian, Rick  
**Subject:** Re: letter to AG requesting investigation of Exxon

Looks great! Persecuted should be changed to prosecuted in the last paragraph, and then it's good to go. Let's have Rick prepare a press release to go along with this.

Thanks,  
Marko

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 9, 2016, at 10:06 AM, Simons, Lucas <[Lucas.Simons@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Lucas.Simons@leg.wa.gov)> wrote:

Here’s a draft of the letter to AG requesting an investigation like the ones in [California](#) and [New York](#)

Wasn’t sure which environmental laws or regulations would be good to mention in the letter. I didn’t see anything in the WAC under any of the Department of Ecology titles that seemed applicable.

<Exxon AG letter.docx>





**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:04 AM  
**To:** Webb, Mike (ATG)  
**Subject:** Sen Lias Request: Investigation into Exxon Mobil Corp.  
**Attachments:** Lias-Exxon Letter.pdf

Hi Mike,

Senator Lias would like to submit the attached letter to Attorney General Ferguson, requesting an investigation into whether Exxon Mobil Corp. committed securities fraud or violated environmental laws of Washington State by repeatedly lying to the public and shareholders about the effects of its business on climate change.

We mailed a copy of the letter yesterday, but wanted to supply a digital copy as well.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to let me know.

Thanks,  
-Curt

**Curt Kohlwes**  
**Legislative Assistant to Sen. Marko Lias**  
*Office: 360.786.7640*  
*Cell: 253.327.9377*  
*John A Cherberg Building #237*  
[Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov)





## Washington State Senate

**Olympia Office:**  
237 John A. Cherberg Building  
PO Box 40421  
Olympia, WA 98504-0421

**Senator Marko Liias**  
21st Legislative District  
Assistant Floor Leader

**Telephone:**  
(360) 786-7640  
E-mail: [Marko.Liias@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Marko.Liias@leg.wa.gov)

March 9, 2016

The Honorable Bob Ferguson  
Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
PO Box 40100  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0100

Dear Attorney General Ferguson:

I am writing to request an investigation into whether Exxon Mobil Corp. committed securities fraud or violated environmental laws of Washington State by repeatedly lying to the public and shareholders about the effects of its business on climate change.

Investigations by the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets have indicated that Exxon scientists confirmed fossil fuels' role in climate change decades ago, but top executives decided to hide the truth and instead embarked on a campaign of denial and disinformation. As I am sure you are aware, the Washington Consumer Protection Act declares that unfair and deceptive practices in trade or commerce are illegal. As well, the Business Opportunity Fraud Act and the Securities Act were meant to protect against this kind of fraud by public companies.

I thank you for the leadership you've shown on environmental issues and fighting for the people of Washington State. Climate change is the defining issue of our time that is going to have dire consequences for future generations if we do not act to slow it. If our country's largest oil company has fraudulently denied the existence of anthropogenic climate change for their own business interests, that company should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I strongly encourage you investigate this matter and, if a violation or violations are found, I implore you to prosecute the offenders on behalf of the people of Washington.

Respectfully,

Sen. Marko Liias  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District





**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:16 AM  
**To:** Wasser, Aaron  
**Subject:** RE: Sen. Lias Request: Press Release

Thanks Aaron!

---

**From:** Wasser, Aaron  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:15 AM  
**To:** Kohlwes, Curt <Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Sen. Lias Request: Press Release

Sure.

Aaron Wasser  
Communications Director  
Office: 360 786-7333  
Cell: 360 870-0251  
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**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:15 AM  
**To:** Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Sen. Lias Request: Press Release

Hi Aaron,

We contacted Rick about this late last week, but due to his accident we obviously did not get it pulled together. Marko sent a letter late last week to the AG requesting an investigation into Exxon. (Attached).

Could you help us get a press release about this out?

Thanks,  
-Curt

**Curt Kohlwes**  
**Legislative Assistant to Sen. Marko Lias**  
*Office: 360.786.7640*  
*Cell: 253.327.9377*  
*John A Cherberg Building #237*  
[Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov)





**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:39 AM  
**To:** Wasser, Aaron  
**Subject:** RE: LiasClimateChangeAGPR.docx

Perfect, thanks Aaron!

---

**From:** Wasser, Aaron  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:32 AM  
**To:** Kohlwes, Curt <Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: LiasClimateChangeAGPR.docx

It did. A little later than normal. I reached out to the AGs office just to make sure Ferguson knew about it. It's also posted to his web site.

Aaron Wasser  
Communications Director  
Office: 360 786-7333  
Cell: 360 870-0251  
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**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:31 AM  
**To:** Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: LiasClimateChangeAGPR.docx

Sorry to miss your call yesterday Aaron, I was out sick. I just wanted to follow-up and make sure this went out.

Thanks,  
-Curt

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**From:** Wasser, Aaron  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 8:59 AM  
**To:** Kohlwes, Curt <[Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: LiasClimateChangeAGPR.docx

Yep. Preparing to send it now.

Aaron Wasser  
Communications Director  
Office: 360 786-7333  
Cell: 360 870-0251  
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**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 8:18 AM  
**To:** Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: LiasClimateChangeAGPR.docx

Thanks for pulling this together Aaron. I will be out of the office today, but I just wanted to follow-up and make sure we get this sent out today.

Thanks,  
-Curt

---

**From:** Lias, Sen. Marko  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:25 PM  
**To:** Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kohlwes, Curt <[Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: LiasClimateChangeAGPR.docx

Looks good, Monday works

Thanks,  
Marko

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 17, 2016, at 3:04 PM, Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)> wrote:

Gentlemen-

Here's a draft of a press release regarding your letter to the AG asking him to look into Exxon Mobil's business practices.

I reached out to the AGs comm people just to let them know this was going to be put out but I haven't heard back from them yet.

Let me know if you want changes. My suggestion would be to possibly send this out either early tomorrow, but preferably Monday so that press is paying attention again. Friday isn't a great day to get traction.

<LiasClimateChangeAGPR.docx>





**From:** Kohlwes, Curt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 3:46 PM  
**To:** Liias, Sen. Marko  
**Subject:** RE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sen. Liias: Washington consumers deserve to know if our state's environmental laws were broken

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-exxon-global-warming-20160120-story.html>

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** [Liias, Sen. Marko](#)  
**Sent:** 3/22/2016 3:44 PM  
**To:** [Kohlwes, Curt](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sen. Liias: Washington consumers deserve to know if our state's environmental laws were broken

Can you send me the original article I sent you, to refresh my memory?

Thanks,  
Marko

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2016, at 6:29 PM, Kohlwes, Curt <[Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Curt.Kohlwes@leg.wa.gov)> wrote:

Marko is sitting on a flight back from DC now. Maybe sometime tomorrow?

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** [Wasser, Aaron](#)  
**Sent:** 3/22/2016 3:18 PM  
**To:** [Liias, Sen. Marko](#); [Kohlwes, Curt](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sen. Liias: Washington consumers deserve to know if our state's environmental laws were broken

Do you have interest in speaking to the Stranger about your AG letter?

Aaron Wasser  
Communications Director  
Office: 360 786-7333  
Cell: 360 870-0251  
[Follow us on Twitter](#)  
[Like us on Facebook](#)

<image003.png>

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**From:** Sydney Brownstone [<mailto:sydney@thestranger.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 12:50 PM  
**To:** Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sen. Liias: Washington consumers deserve to know if our state's environmental laws were broken

Sorry for the delay—that would be great! What's his availability this afternoon?



On Mar 21, 2016, at 8:24 PM, Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)> wrote:

It's a letter and not a bill so there aren't co-signers. I'm sure you could find support, at least among other Democrats, for what Liias is asking for. Want to set up an interview with him?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 21, 2016, at 4:09 PM, Sydney Brownstone <[sydney@thestranger.com](mailto:sydney@thestranger.com)<<mailto:sydney@thestranger.com>>> wrote:

Hi Aaron,

Do you know if any other state lawmakers are cosigning this?

Thanks,  
Sydney

On Mar 21, 2016, at 1:51 PM, Wasser, Aaron <[Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov)<<mailto:Aaron.Wasser@leg.wa.gov>>> wrote:

Sen. Liias: Washington consumers deserve to know if our state's environmental laws were broken

Sen. Marko Liias, D-Lynnwood, has requested in a letter to Attorney General Bob Ferguson<<http://sdc.wastateleg.org/liias/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2016/03/Liias-Exxon-Letter.pdf>> that his office investigate Exxon Mobil Corp. to determine if the company has violated Washington's environmental or consumer protection laws.

The request stems from media reports<<http://graphics.latimes.com/exxon-arctic/>> that surfaced late last year revealing Exxon scientists learned decades ago the negative impacts fossil fuels have on the environment and the role they play in the spread of climate change. The reports also state these findings were covered up by top Exxon Mobil executives.

Liias' believes that the concealment of these findings could have violated multiple Washington laws while defrauding Washington consumers with misleading and fraudulent science.

"Washingtonians deserve to know if a major company with a powerful presence in our state went out of its way to mislead, misrepresent and out-right lie to them," Liias said. "Consumers vote with their dollars. If these underhanded practices took place in our state, Washingtonians deserve to know to what degree and for how long this has gone on."

Attorney Generals in New York<[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/06/science/exxon-mobil-under-investigation-in-new-york-over-climate-statements.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/06/science/exxon-mobil-under-investigation-in-new-york-over-climate-statements.html?_r=0)> and California<<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-exxon-global-warming-20160120-story.html>> have already launched similar investigations and





Maryland's AG is considering similar action.<<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/23022016/maryland-attorney-general-investigate-exxon-climate-change>>

Aaron Wasser

Communications Director

Office: 360 786-7333

Cell: 360 870-0251

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Like us on Facebook<<https://www.facebook.com/Washington-State-Senate-Democrats-1507516359538841/>>

<image003.png>

Sydney Brownstone

Reporter | The Stranger

c: 610.247.9636

o: 206.323.7101 ext. 3019

[sydney@thestranger.com](mailto:sydney@thestranger.com)<<mailto:sydney@thestranger.com>>

@sydbrownstone

Sydney Brownstone

Reporter | The Stranger

c: 610.247.9636

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@sydbrownstone