

From: <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Date: Tue, Sep 8, 2020 at 9:53 PM

Subject: Invitation: John Weber // Pay Up Climate Polluters @ Wed Sep 9, 2020 11:30am - 11:45am (EDT) (jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov)

To: <jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov>, <payupnjpolluters@gmail.com>

You have been invited to the following event.

John Weber // Pay Up Climate Polluters

When Wed Sep 9, 2020 11:30am – 11:45am Eastern Time - New York

Calendar jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov

Who

- iyla@climateintegrity.org - organizer
- payupnjpolluters@gmail.com
- jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov

more details »

Going (jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov)? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#).

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Date: Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Subject: Follow up about Leaders for Climate Accountability

To: <jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov>, Lauren OBrien <payupnjpolluters@gmail.com>

Hi John,

Thank you so much for taking the time to chat with us. As promised, attached is the pitch deck and a program one-pager. Keep in mind that this powerpoint is a template - usually I fill in local details on some slides so those just have placeholders in them on the version that's attached.

If you are willing to join our network, you can simply just fill out this [google form](#) and we'll be in touch with the toolkits and follow up materials.

Thanks again!

Best,

--

Iyla Shornstein (she/her)
State and Local Campaigns Consultant
Center for Climate Integrity
845-706-3159



Leaders for Climate Accountability

Our communities are at a crossroads. Cities and states across the country are seeing already tight budgets decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic. And with climate change exacerbating long-overdue upgrades to infrastructure, the threat of supercharged wildfires and hurricanes, and public health disasters, local governments find themselves in a critical position. Local leaders need to take action now to protect taxpayers and our way of life.

Leaders for Climate Accountability is a national network of elected officials who refuse to let their communities settle for less. We're committed to local solutions for local problems. That means putting our communities first by prioritizing the needs of our constituents, protecting local democracy, and making sure corporate polluters are held accountable for their outsized role in climate change.

Our Platform and Network

We know that protecting our homes, businesses, and families from climate change is not a small task. We can't rely on business as usual: Our communities need innovative solutions. Time and time again, local governments have been learning labs for policy solutions. Our Leaders are committed to:

- Championing the “polluter pays” principle so taxpayers aren’t solely responsible for costs of adaptation and recovery
- Protecting local democracy and access to the courts
- Putting our constituents’ families, homes, and livelihoods at the forefront of policy solutions

Leaders for Climate Accountability harnesses, supports, and elevates local leadership. As a Leader for Climate Accountability, you and your office will have access to:

- Political and policy research specific to your locality, including polling, white papers, sample legislation, and specific cost studies
- Our national communications shop, including a press team on hand to help with writing and pitching op-eds, statements, speeches, and television spots
- A messaging/social media toolkit tailored to your district
- A network of local and national organizations to build support for your climate accountability platform and champion its successes
- Opportunities to network with and learn from national cross-sector leaders

Interested in learning more? Reach out to Iyla Shornstein at iyla@climateintegrity.org for more information.

About the Center for Climate Integrity

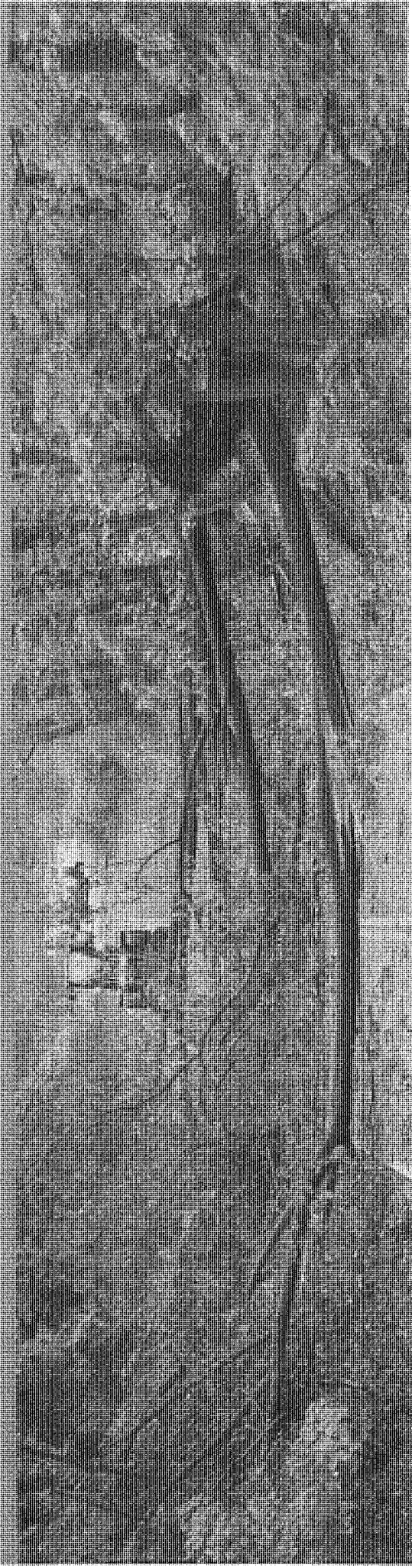
The Center for Climate Integrity empowers communities and elected officials with the knowledge and tools they need to hold polluters accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis. Through campaigns, communications, and strategic legal support, we work to ensure that the fossil fuel industry pays their fair share for the massive existing (and projected) costs of climate change.

LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

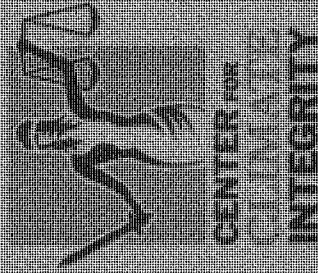
Local Challenges.

Local Leadership.

Local Solutions.



Who are we, exactly?



CCI and its partners in law, science and advocacy work with policymakers to hold corporate polluters accountable for the costs of climate change.

Local Org

Description

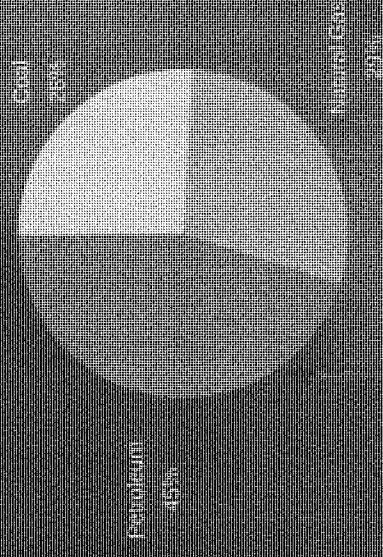
Climate Change is a pollution problem

Industrial emissions.

Climate Change.

Severe weather. Sea-level
rise. Flooding. Drought.
Extreme heat. Wildfires.

Climate Change is a pollution problem



U.S. ENERGY
EMISSIONS

OIL & GAS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 75% OF U.S. EMISSIONS

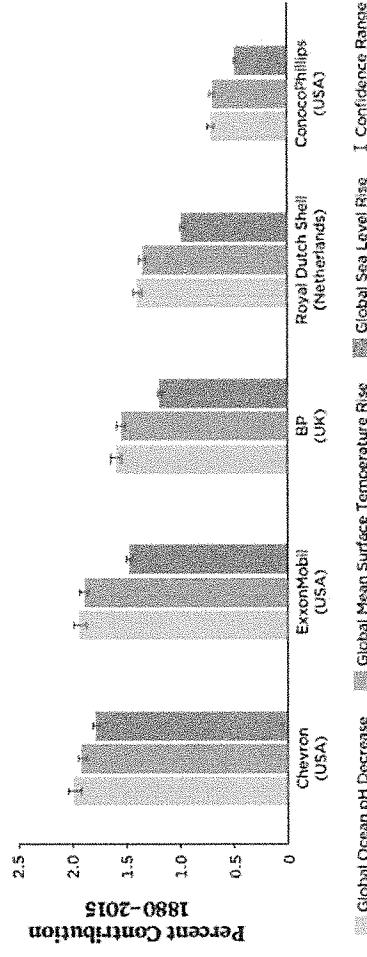
FIGURE 3. Annual Global CO₂ Emission from Fossil Fuel and Cement, 1751–2015



Though the Industrial Revolution began more than 250 years ago, more than 75 percent of industrial carbon emissions have been released only since 1965, when fossil fuel companies were well aware of the risks of their products.

SOURCE: BODEN, MARLAND, AND ANDRES 2016.

FIGURE 2. Contribution of Top Five Investor-Owned Carbon Producers to Ocean Acidification and Climate Impacts, 1965–2015



Emissions traced to each of the top five investor-owned carbon producers—Chevron, ExxonMobil, BP, Royal Dutch Shell, and ConocoPhillips—from 1965 to 2015 contributed measurable amounts to the increases in ocean acidification, global average temperature increase, and global sea level over the period 1880–2015. Most of the historical carbon emissions have occurred since 1965, by which time these and other companies were well aware that their products were leading to global warming.

Note: Top five investor-owned companies were determined by historical emissions contribution to change over the period 1880–2015. All numbers represent the best estimates for forcing data.

SOURCES: LUTHER ET AL, 2009; HEEDE 2014.

https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/UCS_acidification_FS_191210a_low-res.pdf

Tracing Industrial Emissions

Just 90 companies are responsible for nearly two-thirds of the world's industrial emissions.

The Timeline

Evidence shows oil & gas execs knew as early as the 1960s that their products would lead to climate change, and it could have disastrous impacts.

1968-1981

Scientists warn
oil & gas execs

The Timeline

Evidence shows oil & gas execs knew as early as the 1960s that their products would lead to climate change, and it could have disastrous impacts.

crease in CO₂. More comprehensive models are under development and should be available shortly.

If the earth's temperature increases significantly, a number of events might be expected to occur, including the melting of the Antarctic ice cap, a rise in sea levels, warming of the oceans, and an increase in photo-synthesis. The first two items are of course related since the increase in sea level would be mainly due to the added water from the ice cap.

1968 - American Petroleum Institute

1968-1981

Scientists warn

oil & gas execs

SUMMARY

- I. CO₂ RELEASE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF INADVERTENT CLIMATE MODIFICATION.
- II. PREVAILING OPINION ATTRIBUTES CO₂ INCREASE TO FOSSIL FUEL COMBUSTION.
- III. DOUBLING CO₂ COULD INCREASE AVERAGE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE 1°C TO 3°C BY 2050 A.D. (10°C PREDICTED AT POLES).
- IV. MORE RESEARCH IS NEEDED ON MOST ASPECTS OF GREENHOUSE EFFECT
- V. 5-10 YR. TIME WINDOW TO GET NECESSARY INFORMATION
- VI. MAJOR RESEARCH EFFORT BEING CONSIDERED BY DOE

1978 - Exxon

I can agree with the statement that our best guess is that observable effects in the year 2030 are likely to be "well short of catastrophic", it is distinctly possible that the CPD scenario will later produce effects which will indeed be catastrophic (at least for a substantial fraction of the earth's population). This is because the global ecosystem in 2030 might still be in a transient, headed for much more significant effects after time lags perhaps of the order of decades. If this indeed turns out to be case, it is very

1981 - Exxon

The Timeline

Execs recognize that addressing climate change could require burning fewer fossil fuels - a threat to industry profits.

1968-1981

Scientists warn
oil & gas execs

1979-1983

Profits could be
at risk

The Timeline

Execs recognize that addressing climate change could require burning fewer fossil fuels - a threat to industry profits.

Nevertheless, recognizing the uncertainty, there is a possibility that an atmospheric CO₂ buildup will cause adverse environmental effects in enough areas of the world to consider limiting the future use of fossil fuels as major energy sources. This report illustrates the possible future limits on fossil fuel use by examining different energy scenarios with varying rates of CO₂ emissions. Comparison of the different energy scenarios show the magnitude of the switch from fossil fuels to non-fossil fuels that might be necessary in the future. Non-fossil fuels include fusion/fission, geothermal, biomass, hydroelectric and solar power. The possible environmental changes associated with each scenario are also discussed.

1979 - Exxon

1968-1981

Scientists warn oil & gas execs

1979-1983

Profits could be at risk

Mobil Status Report Environmental & Toxicology Issues

MOBIL
4/1/83
4/1/83

ATMOSPHERIC GREENHOUSE EFFECT: IS BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS AFFECTING WORLD CLIMATE?

INTRODUCTION

In theory, increasing levels of carbon dioxide produced by burning fossil fuels could alter the world's climate by raising the earth's temperature. This warming might occur because carbon dioxide in the air acts like a blanket in a greenhouse, trapping the sun's heat at the earth's surface--heat that would normally escape back into space.

The "greenhouse" effect is an emerging environmental issue characterized by considerable scientific uncertainty. While some studies have shown that there is some correlation between the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the earth's temperature, other studies have shown that the correlation is not statistically significant. This uncertainty complicates the relationship between carbon dioxide and climate change.

This report summarizes the background and status of the greenhouse effect, indicating possible impacts on Mobil operations.

DISCUSSION

Plants consume carbon dioxide during growth, and release it back to the atmosphere when they decay. There is a relationship between carbon dioxide in the air and carbonate salts in the oceans. Before 1950, man had little influence on the carbon dioxide cycle. There appears to have been a balance between carbon dioxide in the air and carbon compounds in the land and seas.

However, since the industrial revolution began activities, such as fossil fuel combustion and forest clearing, may have altered the balance.

The Timeline

After deciding that a transition to clean energy would be bad for business, oil & gas execs deliberately sowed doubt to undermine scientific truths.

1968

Scientists warn
oil & gas execs

1983

Profits could be
at risk

1988

All in on
climate denial

The Timeline

After deciding that a transition to clean energy would be bad for business, oil & gas execs deliberately sowed doubt to undermine scientific truths.

0 EXXON IS PROVIDING LEADERSHIP THROUGH API IN DEVELOPING THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY POSITION.

EXXON POSITION

0 EMPHASIZE THE UNCERTAINTY IN SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE POTENTIAL ENHANCED GREENHOUSE EFFECT.

0 URGE A BALANCED SCIENTIFIC APPROACH.

1998 - Exxon

1968

Scientists warn oil & gas execs

1983

Profits could be at risk

1988

All in on climate denial

Global Climate Science Communications

Action Plan

Project Goal

A majority of the American public, including industry leadership, recognizes that significant uncertainties exist in climate science, and therefore raises questions among those (e.g. Congress) who chart the future U.S. course on global climate change.

Progress will be measured toward the goal. A measurement of the public's perspective on climate science will be taken before the plan is launched, and the same measurement will be taken at one or more as-yet-to-be-determined intervals as the plan is implemented.

Victory Will Be Achieved When

- Average citizens "understand" (recognize) uncertainties in climate science; recognition of uncertainties becomes part of the "conventional wisdom"
- Media "understands" (recognizes) uncertainties in climate science
- Media coverage reflects balance on climate science and recognition of the validity of viewpoints that challenge the current "conventional wisdom"
- Industry senior leadership understands uncertainties in climate science, making them stronger ambassadors to those who shape climate policy
- Those promoting the Kyoto treaty on the basis of extant science appear to be out of touch with reality

Current Reality

Unless "climate change" becomes a non-issue, meaning that the Kyoto proposal is defeated and there are no further initiatives to thwart the threat of climate change, there may be no moment when we can declare victory for our efforts. It will be necessary to establish measurements for the science effort to track progress toward achieving the goal and strategic success.

1998 - American Petroleum Institute

Local budgets are feeling the pinch

State revenues expected to drop 18-23%
for FY 2021 due to COVID-19.

but

Local costs are on the upswing

- State and local expenditures have increased 178% in the past 40 years.
- 21 states entered pandemic with unemployment trust funds below recommended minimum
- Unfunded state pension debt was \$1.2 trillion as of 2018



\$XX billion

on coastal defenses

\$XX billion

annual budget

Balanced budget requirements make meetings these needs almost impossible.

Taxpayers can't (and shouldn't)
be responsible for these costs
on their own.

So who is going to pay for it?

Polluters. Plain and simple.

**Climate polluters must be held
accountable for damages they
knowingly caused.**

So who is going to pay for it?

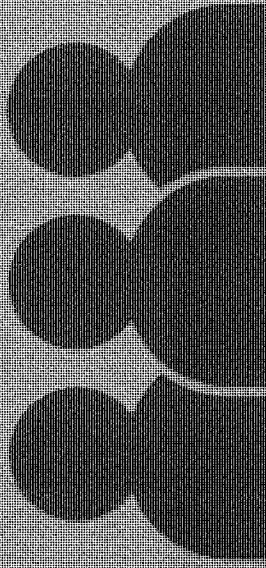
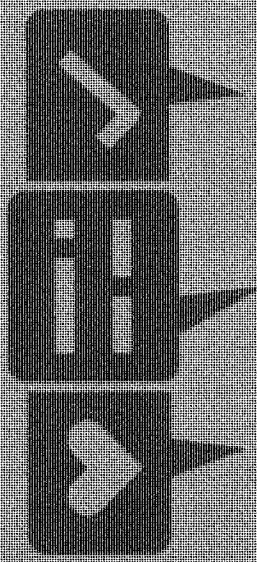
Polluters. Plain and simple.

STATUS OF CLIMATE LIABILITY LAWSUITS									
Case	Date Filed	Nuisance and Other Common Law Torts			Products Liability			Consumer Protection	Procedural Status
		Public	Private	Negligence	Other	Design Defect	Failure to Warn		
San Mateo et al v Chevron et al	7/17/17	X	X	X	Trespass	X	X		9th Circuit affirmed district court's remand decision pending for an en banc review denied; remand stayed in anticipation of appeal to SCOTUS
SF/Oakland v BP et al	9/19/17	X							9th Circuit sent case back to district court to reconsider whether it has jurisdiction to hear the case pending for an en banc review denied
NYC v BP et al	1/9/18	X	X		Trespass				Cases dismissed; city's appeal pending in 2nd Circuit
Boulder County et al v Suncor and Exxon	4/17/18	X	X		Trespass, unjust enrichment, conspiracy			X	10th Circuit affirmed district court's remand decision; parties awaiting decision on motion to dismiss (MTD) from CO state court
King County v BP et al	5/9/18	X			Trespass				Stay extended through 9/9/20; court to determine how to proceed in light of 9th Circuit decisions
Rhode Island v Chevron et al	7/2/18	X		X	Trespass	X	X		Proceedings in state & federal courts; Parties litigating MTD in RI state court; defendants' appeal of remand pending in 1st Circuit
Baltimore v BP et al	7/20/18	X	X	X	Trespass	X	X	X	Proceedings in state & federal courts; Parties litigating MTD in MD state court; defendants' petition for cert of 4th Circuit remand decision to be considered by SCOTUS on 9/29/20
PCFPA v Chevron et al	11/4/18	X		X		X	X		Settled; litigation management conference scheduled for 12/16/20
Mass v Exxon	10/24/19							X	Parties litigating MTD in MA state court to be fully briefed by 12/10/20
Hendricks v Sunoco et al	3/9/20	X	X	X	Trespass		X		Parties litigating motion to remand to be fully briefed by 10/30/20
Main v Exxon, Koch Industries and API	6/24/20				Fraud misrepresentation		X	X	Parties litigating motion to remand to be fully briefed by 12/21/20
DC v Exxon et al	6/25/20							X	Parties litigating motion to remand to be fully briefed by 11/24/20

Prepared by the Science for Climate Integrity Foundation 8/31/20

Today, 20 different cities, states and trade industries are seeking financial damages from climate polluters.

Voters are supportive



XX%

Believe oil and gas companies should be responsible for all or some of climate change costs.

XX%

Support suing the industry directly to recover costs.

XX%

Would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports suing oil and gas companies.



Corporate pushback

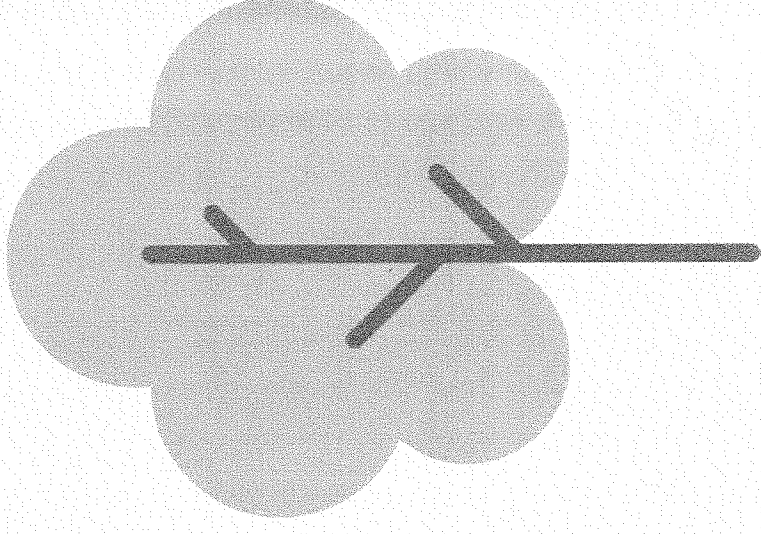
The industry is trying to shield itself
from legal accountability by
attacking local democracy:

Liability Waivers

Municipal preemption and
consolidation

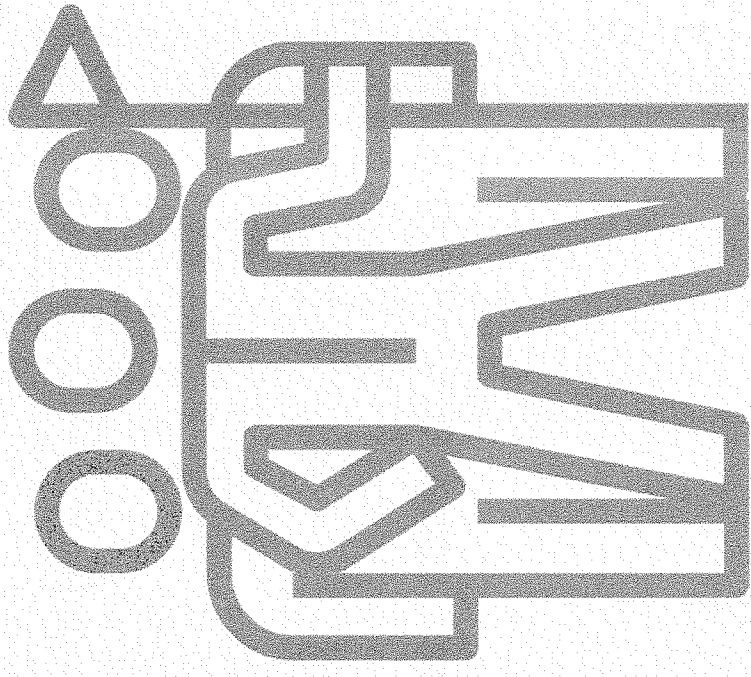
LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Champions for local
leadership and
commonsense climate
solutions.

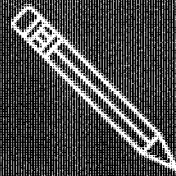


Leaders will:

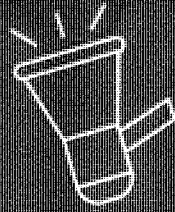
- Champion "polluter pays"
- Protect home rule
- Put constituents first



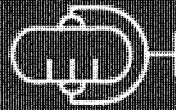
In practice, that could mean:



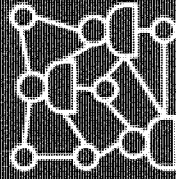
Writing an op-ed or blog post
in support of polluter pays



Speaking out against a
municipal preemption bill



Appearing on TV or radio to talk
about climate impacts in your
community



Advocating for climate liability
with community leaders

Ultimately, how you engage depends on your community.



And have access to:

Policy and political research

Including polling, reports, policy toolkits, and more.

Press support

Messaging and social media toolkits, a national press shop, op-ed writing support and placement, etc.

Local and national network of cross-sector leaders

Sharing ideas, best practices, and more.

All for free, by the way.

Questions?

Center for Climate Integrity
climateintegrity.org

Pay Up Climate Polluters
payupclimatepolluters.org

Email
lyla@climateintegrity.org
845-706-3159

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 2:27 PM
Subject: Welcome to Leaders for Climate Accountability! Toolkits enclosed.
To: John Weber <jweber@bradleybeachnj.gov>
Cc: Lauren OBrien <payupnjpolluters@gmail.com>

Dear Councilman Weber,

We are so excited to include you in our national network of climate champions, Leaders for Climate Accountability. Together, we will work to ensure that taxpayers aren't stuck footing the bill for climate-related damages and that the oil and gas industry is held accountable for their deception and outsized role in creating and exacerbating the climate crisis.

Attached to this email are a number of toolkits designed to better help your office promote the movement for climate accountability. It is our hope that each toolkit empowers you to take tangible actions that support the "polluter pays" narrative and creates a more friendly environment for climate accountability lawsuits.

Here's what to expect from the toolkits and how best to use them:

Policy Toolkit:

- *What it is:* A selection of five "polluter pays" template resolutions which can be edited to suit your community's individual climate impacts, costs, and needs.
- *How to use it:* These five resolutions are intended to illustrate how you could assert your community's commitment to ensuring that constituents are not left footing the bill for climate damages. They could also serve as a way to support existing climate accountability cases, or to lay a critical foundation for entities who may wish to pursue litigation in the future.
- *How we can help:* We can help support you in making these resolutions a success by researching localized costs and impacts, editing language to suit your needs, pitching to the media, messaging guidance, creating assets for social media, and more.

Communications Toolkit

- *What it is:* Sample social media posts, talking points, email templates, and shareable graphics to communicate why climate polluters should be held accountable for the damages they knowingly caused. This toolkit is fully customized for your office and includes references to costs and impacts in your district/state/municipality.
- *How to use it:* Share away! Please remember to tag us at @L4CA_ across all channels so we can help amplify your posts. **Please note that our social media accounts will not be active until after the public launch of this network** (late winter/early spring).
- *How we can help:* Our team is happy to create additional content for you, so long as it relates to climate accountability. Make sure to follow us across all channels so you don't miss any exciting climate accountability news.

Municipal Preemption Primer

- *What it is:* An overview of municipal preemption and other attacks on liability lawsuits.
- *How to use it:* Familiarize yourself with the different strategies used to block access to the courts so your office can easily identify these attempts. Use the provided boolean search tool to scan a bill's contents for any indicators that it might contain preemptive language.
- *How we can help:* We are happy to review any proposed legislation that you are concerned might infringe on local democracy.

Polling Memo:

- *What it is:* A summary of climate accountability polling results in your region.
- *How to use it:* This memo can help inform messaging on this issue, while offering your office a better sense of existing support for climate accountability. Please do NOT share this memo outside of your office.
- *How we can help:* We are happy to walk you through the methodology and results.

We hope that these toolkits serve as a guide for empowering your community to stand up to corporate polluters and hold them accountable for their misdeeds. Our relationship with your office does not end here. Rather, we view these resources as the very beginning of a collaborative partnership as we work towards a common goal.

A few important notes:

- The Center for Climate Integrity plans to **launch this network to the public in the late winter/early spring of 2021**. We will have a website that will feature all of our Leaders (using the bio and headshot provided by your office). We hope you will join us in spreading the word!
- These toolkits are meant as **a resource for your office only**. Please do not share them outside of your direct staff. We are happy to speak with any other officials or colleagues that might be interested in our work or in joining our network. Just let us know!
- **Keep us in the loop!** If you decide to introduce a resolution or legislation or want to hold a virtual town hall -- we would be more than happy to assist you in any way we can. Don't forget to tag us in social media posts and update us on any climate-related work your office is involved in.
- As we look towards 2021, we will continue to develop creative ways to advocate and promote climate accountability. Please know that **we will continue to share resources** as they become available and that we are always looking for media opportunities for our Leaders.

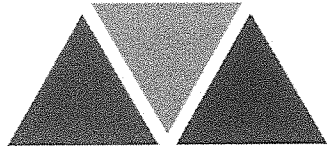
Thank you so much for your commitment to holding polluters accountable and making sure the companies whose products caused the problem pay their fair share to adapt communities to the new normal.

As always, please reach out with any questions. I look forward to building on this work with you!

Best,

--

Iyla Shornstein (she/her)
State and Local Campaigns Manager
Center for Climate Integrity
845-706-3159



LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Municipal Preemption and other attacks on liability lawsuits

Background: Litigation is a powerful tool used to hold corporate polluters accountable for the injuries they have caused to communities, effectively shifting the costs from those harmed to those responsible for the harms. Under various legal theories, an individual or community that has been unjustly wronged has the right to seek recourse through a court of law. Upon hearing the dispute, the court will determine the appropriate remedy, such as compensation for the harm the plaintiff has suffered or penalties for the fraud that has been perpetrated.

Communities across the country are suffering as a result of the deceptive conduct of industries like opioid manufacturers and fossil fuel companies, and they are paying millions, if not billions, of dollars to address the harms. Access to the courts must be preserved to ensure that those affected -- cities, counties and other entities -- can seek recourse and remedy for the damages that have been caused by these corporate actors.

Now that 24 communities have filed suit against them, the fossil fuel industry and its allies are working hard to prevent these and other communities from having their day in court. In 2019, the industry-backed Chamber of Commerce issued a report titled *Mitigating Municipality Litigation*, which provides detailed recommendations and ways in which state lawmakers can restrict or block local governments' access to the courts and effectively undermine litigation efforts to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable. Each of these strategies corresponds to one of "the four essential elements that a lawsuit requires to be viable: a plaintiff able and willing to bring suit; a defendant capable of being sued; a cause of action that can be brought; and an available forum."

Several states -- including Kansas, Florida, Arizona and Texas -- are actively considering legislative proposals based on the report's recommendations. These efforts are described in more detail below.

ATTACKS ON THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF A VIABLE LAWSUIT

Industry efforts to block access to courts are well underway. Climate leaders must be equipped with the information necessary to identify and oppose any and all legislative efforts to restrict or block municipalities from accessing state courts. This section outlines the strategies presented in the Chamber of Commerce report, and specific proposals that are now moving through state legislatures.

1. Plaintiff's ability to bring and control a lawsuit

The ultimate goal of such legislation is to prevent local and state governments from bringing lawsuits in state court. This includes attempts to strip municipalities of their authority to file a lawsuit or hire outside counsel, set limits on contingency fee arrangements, and control the outcome of litigation. The following are examples of each approach:

- *Stripping authority:*
 - In **Louisiana**, Governor Jindal signed a bill retroactively stripping the state levee authority of its ability to file suit against the oil industry for its destruction of wetlands.
 - The **Pennsylvania** legislature passed a bill that removed sole prosecutorial discretion over firearms cases from Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner and gave Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro concurrent jurisdiction.¹
 - In 2019, the **Ohio** General Assembly introduced a bill backed by Attorney General Dave Yost that would grant the Ohio attorney general's office "the sole and exclusive authority" to "bring a civil action and consolidate other actions based on a matter of statewide concern" involving any issue or action that "more likely than not...adversely affect[s]" citizens in at least five Ohio counties."
- *Barring or limiting contingency fees:*
 - A recent **Kansas** bill would ban all cities, counties, and school districts from hiring private lawyers "on a contingent fee basis" without written permission from the state attorney general.²
 - A proposed **Florida** bill would cap contingency fee recovery for private attorneys representing a municipality.³
 - An **Arizona** bill would both cap contingency fee agreements with outside counsel *and* require AG approval.⁴
 - Last year **Texas** advanced multiple bills prohibiting or limiting the use of contingency fee agreements by local governments.⁵
- *Controlling outcome:*

¹ PA bill (HB 1614)

² KS bill (HB 2461)

³ FL bill (SB 1574/HB 7043)

⁴ AZ bill (SB 1459)

⁵ TX: SB 970 (2019, Texas 86th Leg); TX: HB 2003 (2019, Texas 86th Leg)

- In a separate bill, the **Texas** legislature took it one step further, giving the Attorney General the authority to settle certain civil suits brought by a local government concerning water and environmental issues without the consent of that local government.⁶

2. Defendant capable of being sued

Every industry wants a blanket waiver of liability. While the gun industry is the only one that successfully secured a liability waiver, the fossil fuel industry is actively pursuing a waiver that would provide total immunity from any lawsuits seeking to hold companies liable for past, present, and future climate damages.

- *Gun Industry liability waiver*
 - Utah enacted a law to provide broad immunity from litigation brought by any individual or public or private entity, including political subdivisions, to the firearm and ammunition manufacturing industry.
- *Fossil Fuel Industry attempt*
 - In April 2020, industry lobbyists introduced a liability waiver for “energy” companies while Congress debated the first stimulus package to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. A viable cause of action

The fossil fuel industry may attempt to limit the use of public nuisance and other causes of action, including through changes to the applicable statute of limitations.

4. An available forum

The industry may also attempt to remove state court jurisdiction over municipal litigation. As described in the Chamber of Commerce report, states could “amend the constitutional or statutory provisions that make state courts an available forum.” By limiting the ability of state courts to hear certain claims or order certain remedies, states could effectively deprive local governments of a forum where they could bring their claims.

⁶ TX: HB 3981 (2019, Texas 86th Leg)

TACTICS USED TO DISGUISE THESE ATTACKS

In their efforts to push these proposals through, state lawmakers are using the following duplicitous tactics to hide and confuse the true intentions of their court access-blocking legislation:

- Pass bills quickly
 - This minimizes open debate on the purpose of the bill and lessens the ability of opponents to organize and legislators to consult constituent groups.
 - Time bills around end-of-session logjams
 - Legislators have less time to deliberate.
 - Obscure the purpose by adding it to pre-existing bills on non-relevant substantive topics
 - Legislators may add language removing or blocking access to the courts to popular bills that have widespread support, making it more difficult for opponents to contest or defeat it.
 - Repeal only to replace
 - A state legislature may repeal preemption on a specific policy area, only to replace it with a bill using different language but with the same preemptive effect.
-

Talking Points re: Laws Restricting Local Suits

- **Localities have the right to seek justice from the courts.** Communities are suffering from the deceptive conduct of industries like opioid manufacturers and fossil fuel companies, and they are paying millions, if not billions, in dollars to address the harms. Access to the courts must be preserved to ensure that those affected -- cities, counties and other entities -- can seek recourse and remedy for the damages that have been caused by these bad actors.
- **Climate and public health harms must be addressed at the local level.** Whether it's the [\$XX billion] it will cost [XX municipality] to build seawalls to combat rising seas or the [\$XX million XX County] alone has spent to counter its opioid epidemic, communities are facing multi-million dollar price tags to protect homes, livelihoods, infrastructure, and public health from the dangerous consequences of corporate malfeasance. These costs are inherently local, and present major budgetary concerns for taxpayers and local officials alike, who are currently footing the bill entirely on their own -- and they must be confronted at the local level.

- **These bills are an attack on local rule.** Corporations hope that by passing these bills, especially in states with sympathetic Attorneys General, they will escape accountability completely. But residents elect their city and county officials to act in the best interest of their communities, and those officials must have the ability to address local harms as their communities see fit. Local officials can't be hamstrung by rules that require state approval when seeking legal recourse for harms that their communities are suffering.
- **This legislation would rig the system in favor of Big Business so that corrupt industries can't be held accountable for their misdeeds.** It is only through court orders and settlements that Big Tobacco and Big Pharma have been held accountable for their fraud and forced to help offset the damage caused by their products. As more and more local governments look to the courts to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for its decades-long campaign of deception and the resulting costs to local communities, these companies are scared that they're next. Municipal preemption and other legislative attacks would allow fossil fuel majors to escape accountability for their actions.

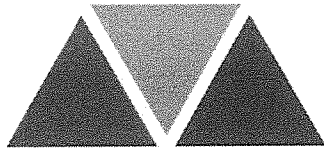
Keywords/Phrases for Preemption Legislation Searches

Credit: [Local Solutions Support Center](#)

Another way to uncover legislative attempts at municipal preemption is to search for key terms and phrases. In this table, which has been formatted for Boolean searching:

- **Search for preemption of a specific issue:**
((Column A Term) w/25 (Column B Term)) and (Column C Term)
- **Broader search for any preemption bill on any issue:**
(Column A Term) w/25 (Column B Term)
- **Search for preemption of municipal litigation, not issue specific:**
(Column A Term) w/50 (Column C Term)
- **Search for preemption of municipal litigation on specific issue:**
((Column A Term) w/25 (Column C Term)) and (Column D Term)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
"ordinance! "local! "political subdivision! "municipal!	"preempt!" "shall not prohibit!" "occupy the field" "exclusive power!"	"damage!" "liab!" "nuisance!" "jurisdiction!" "fee!" "suit!" "court!" "claim!" "cause! of action" "attorney general!" "class!" "attorney!" "counsel" "immun!" "settle!" "parens patriae"	environment greenhouse! gas fossil fuel climate oil fracking gas budget public health



LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Policy Toolkit

About CCI

The Center for Climate Integrity empowers communities and elected officials with the knowledge and tools they need to hold polluters accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis and the fraud they've perpetrated on the American public. Through campaigns, communications, and strategic legal support, we work to ensure that the fossil fuel industry pays their fair share for the massive existing (and projected) costs of climate change.

About This Toolkit

As of December 2020, two dozen communities across the United States have sued oil and gas giants to hold them accountable for misleading the public about their role in the climate crisis and for the climate damages they knowingly caused — with polling showing wide support for climate accountability from voters across the aisle.

This toolkit serves as a resource to local leaders who want to ensure their residents aren't left footing the bill for severe and escalating climate impacts on their own — and that those who contributed most to this crisis, not those most vulnerable, are responsible for the costs of adaptation and resilience. Included are a selection of polluter pays template resolutions which can be edited to suit your municipality's individual climate impacts, costs, and needs. If you would like help researching localized costs and impacts or editing language to suit your needs, feel free to reach out to Emily Sanders at emily@climateintegrity.org.

Table of Contents

1. [Accounting for the Costs of Climate Change](#)
2. [Asserting Your Community's Right to Sue](#)
3. [Calling on Your State to File a Climate Accountability Lawsuit](#)
4. [Calling on Your State Congressional Delegation to Oppose a Liability Waiver](#)
5. [Making a Climate Emergency Declaration](#)

Accounting for the Costs of Climate Change

Summary: Taxpayers have a right to know the entirety of the costs they face when it comes to adapting to and recovering from the escalating impacts of climate change. A transparent accounting of climate-related costs is an invaluable tool for local governments during budgeting and emergency planning, and can be used to hold polluters accountable for their fair share of the climate damages they knowingly caused.

The following resolution can be used as a guide to call upon local and state governments to determine exactly how much taxpayers are spending to address climate change at the local level. Including locally-specific impacts and costs is important. You can find good examples of how climate change is impacting your communities here:

- The High Tide Tax: 2019 study by the Center for Climate Integrity and Resilient Analytics that examines the costs of basic coastal defenses to protect against sea level rise under a conservative emissions scenario
- States at Risk: 2015 project by Climate Central that demonstrates how Americans in all 50 states are experiencing the impacts of climate change
- Underwater: 2018 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists that analyzes risks faced by US coastal real estate due to rising seas
- Killer Heat: 2019 report and interactive map by the Union of Concerned Scientists that assesses the future of dangerously rising temperatures across the U.S.
- Neighborhoods at Risk: tool from Headwaters Economics that shows demographic vulnerability to climate change by census tract/neighborhood

Disclaimer: Any resolutions should be vetted by local legal and policy authorities before being introduced for consideration.

Below you'll find an example of a cost-accounting resolution that uses sea level rise and its associated damages as an impact to be tracked; this language can also be edited to reflect cost accounting associated with other climate impacts including more frequent and severe wildfires, drought, extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and more. If your city or county is interested in conducting your own cost-accounting study, please reach out to Iyla Shornstein at iyla@climateintegrity.org for information on funding, engineering firms, etc.

Title: Resolution Urging [X City/County/State] to Track the Costs of Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience and Recovery

WHEREAS, communities across the United States are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising global temperatures, including but not limited to sea-level rise, warming atmospheric and ocean temperatures, more frequent and devastating wildfires, drought, flooding, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the United States experienced 14 separate billion-dollar disasters in 2019, according to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and those impacts and costs are projected to increase as long as greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated; and

WHEREAS, coastal communities across the country collectively could spend more than \$400 billion on sea wall and coastal barrier construction over the next five to ten years to protect against chronic flooding from near-term sea level rise under a conservative emissions scenario, and [X city/county/state] could spend [X] billion on the same; and

WHEREAS, [X city/county/state] has estimated that the costs of adapting and rebuilding infrastructure to protect against rising seas alone will total more than [\$X] ; and

WHEREAS, [X city/county/state] will experience a variety of other climate impacts, including [more intense and frequent hurricanes, extreme weather and drought, dangerous temperatures, flooding, increased wildfires, the spread of vector-borne diseases], and will need to address a far wider range of related damages including, [losses to agriculture and tourism industries, compromised water, waste management, and transportation systems, climate gentrification of lower-income neighborhoods, negative public health outcomes, job losses and losses to local businesses, homes, schools and infrastructure in need of upgrades and repairs], and more; and

WHEREAS, due to an ongoing history of systemic racial and economic inequities, low-income communities and communities of color across the country and in [X city/county/state] are most exposed to these threats, yet often go without access to the resources necessary in order to adapt, recover, and build resilience; and

WHEREAS, [X city/county/state] taxpayers are currently bearing the entirety of costs to rebuild and adapt their communities from a worsening threat, though many of these costs are not documented or accounted for in budgetary planning; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of outside revenue, local governments may be forced to cut existing public services, raise taxes, and/or relocate neighborhoods entirely as climate-related expenditures continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments in [X city/county/state] need to assess how much taxpayers are spending and how funds are being allocated to address climate change; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that [X governing body] does hereby urge [X city/county/state elected official] to initiate transparent tracking and accounting of the costs of climate adaptation, resilience and recovery at the local and state levels, in order to

assist in the process of budgetary and emergency planning and begin considerations of how to shift the past and present costs associated with the damages caused by climate change from taxpayers to those that caused the harm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these efforts should begin with an assessment of climate change impacts and necessary adaptation and resilience measures, followed by an identification and evaluation of existing and projected climate-related expenditures, which could include (but is not limited to) costs related to rebuilding communities and economies impacted by extreme weather events, resilience infrastructure adaptation, real estate losses, threats to public health, impacts to water and agricultural systems, transportation, and jobs, implementing emergency response centers, community shelters, and public cooling centers, and more.

Asserting Your Community's Right to Sue

Summary: The climate crisis was created by decades of denial, deception, and disinformation from the fossil fuel industry: oil and gas companies knew more than 50 years ago that their products would cause climate change, but they lied to the public, policymakers, and the media in order to block regulatory action and protect their own profits. Today, two dozen communities across the United States have taken oil and gas majors to court to hold them accountable for consumer fraud and/or damages associated with adapting to the climate crisis.

In response to these cases, corporate-backed special interest groups are pushing legislation at the state level to block communities' access to the courts. Essentially, this type of legislation strips cities and counties of their ability to file lawsuits and centralizes that power firmly in the office of the state attorney general, removing the only avenue these communities have to seek compensation for costly damages. This legislation would have implications for similar lawsuits (regarding opioids, MTBE, PFAS, vaping, etc.) seeking to hold companies accountable for lying about the harm their products would cause. A resolution similar to the one presented below was passed by the United States Conference of Mayors at their 2019 annual meeting in Honolulu.

Communities have a right to use the courts to hold companies liable for false and deceptive advertising and for concealing what they knew about the risks associated with their products; preserving access to the courts is critical for these and other communities to seek justice and accountability. The following resolution can be used as a guide to urge Congress and state officials to protect your community's right to sue.

Disclaimer: Any resolutions should be vetted by local legal and policy authorities before being introduced for consideration.

Title: Resolution Supporting Municipalities' Rights and Efforts to Mitigate Climate Change Damages and Protect Taxpayers from Related Adaptation Costs

WHEREAS, communities across the United States are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising global temperatures, including but not limited to sea-level rise, warming atmospheric and ocean temperatures, more frequent and devastating wildfires, drought, flooding, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the United States experienced 14 separate billion-dollar disasters in 2019, according to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and those impacts and costs are projected to increase as long as greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated; and

WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy have stated that climate-driven hazards will require tens of billions of dollars in investments to strengthen the nation's water, wastewater, and energy systems; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are already having to invest billions of dollars annually in infrastructure and support services to deal with climate change's impacts of heat waves, droughts, wildfires, flooding, and extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, due to an ongoing history of systemic racial and economic inequities, low-income communities and communities of color across the country and in [X state] are most exposed to these threats, yet often go without access to the resources necessary in order to adapt, recover, and build resilience; and

WHEREAS, as of 2017, in the United States, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from burning fossil fuels amounted to 76% of total human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs). NASA explains the “greenhouse effect” as when carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides trap heat in the atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise, known as “global warming”; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by internal industry documents, major fossil fuel companies knew as far back as 1968 that their products would cause significant harm to the climate and to communities across the globe, yet funded campaigns to conceal, obscure and deny the reality of that threat for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, twenty-four municipal and state governments across the country have filed lawsuits seeking to recover the escalating costs local governments will incur to adapt and repair their communities from climate instability and/or to hold oil and gas companies accountable for defrauding consumers; and

WHEREAS, America's courts play a critically important role in our system of checks-and-balances, and are an essential avenue for communities to seek justice and to hold companies accountable for damages they knowingly caused; and

WHEREAS, several major fossil fuel companies and related trade groups are advocating for legislation that would give fossil fuel companies immunity from lawsuits over climate change-related costs and damages or to “eliminate municipalities' power to bring suit or assert specific causes of action”; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the costs of measures to repair and adapt to current and future climate change-related damages should not fall solely on the residents, workers, and businesses in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the [X] State Legislature are urged to ensure that cities have the resources to protect their residents from the impacts of climate change, with a special focus on the equitable distribution of resources for low income and marginalized communities, including the rights of municipalities to have access to the courts to resolve disputes over climate change-related damages and adaptation costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and [X] State Legislature are urged to oppose any legislation that attempts to limit or eliminate municipalities' access to the courts by overriding existing laws or in any way giving fossil fuel companies immunity from lawsuits over climate change-related costs and damages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [city/county of X] will assert the right of our governing body, acting on behalf of [x city/county] residents, to pursue any litigation seeking to recover damages from or hold industries that have harmed [X city/county] residents to account for those misdeeds.

Calling on Your State to File a Climate Accountability Lawsuit

Summary: Founded on well-established legal principles, climate accountability provides that fossil fuel companies, like any other industry that obscured the dangers they knew their products would cause from consumers and the public (i.e. tobacco, opioids, lead, asbestos and more), should face consequences and pay for the costs of their actions. Twenty-four communities, including the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Delaware and Connecticut, have already sued major fossil fuel companies for consumer fraud and/or the costs associated with climate adaptation and resilience.

There are two legal theories, among others, that are being used, either separately or in conjunction, to hold the industry accountable for its deception on climate change: consumer protection and cost recovery.

Consumer protection lawsuits seek to hold fossil fuel companies and their trade associations liable for misleading and deceptive marketing and promotion of fossil fuels. State consumer protection statutes have proven to be an effective tool in holding corporate actors accountable for their lies and deception. These statutes were at the heart of the successful Attorney General-led tobacco litigation in the 1990s, as well as the recent wave of opioid litigation.

Cost recovery lawsuits rely on the “polluter pays” principle: that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of the damage to human health and the environment. In other words, the fossil fuel industry should pay for the climate damages they caused. These cases are designed to ensure that polluters pay their fair share of the costs of climate adaptation, recovery and resilience projects, which currently fall entirely on local and state governments and their residents.

The following resolution can be used as a guide to call upon state governments to file a climate accountability lawsuit to protect state residents from the unfair costs and consequences of Big Oil’s corruption. Including locally-specific impacts and costs is important. You can find good examples of how climate change is impacting your communities here:

- The High Tide Tax: 2019 study by the Center for Climate Integrity and Resilient Analytics that examines the costs of basic coastal defenses under moderate sea level rise
- States at Risk: 2015 project by Climate Central that demonstrates how Americans in all 50 states are experiencing the impacts of climate change
- Underwater: 2018 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists that analyzes risks faced by US coastal real estate due to rising seas

- Killer Heat: 2019 report and interactive map by the Union of Concerned Scientists that assesses the future of dangerously rising temperatures across the U.S.
- Neighborhoods at Risk: tool from Headwaters Economics that shows demographic vulnerability to climate change by census tract/neighborhood

Disclaimer: Any resolutions should be vetted by local legal and policy authorities before being introduced for consideration. The language used in the following resolution can also be edited to reflect costs associated with other climate impacts including more frequent and severe wildfires, drought, extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and more.

Title: Resolution Urging the State of [X] to Hold Fossil Fuel Companies Accountable for Climate Fraud and/or Damages Arising from Climate Change Impacts

WHEREAS, communities across the United States are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising global temperatures, including but not limited to sea-level rise, warming atmospheric and ocean temperatures, more frequent and devastating wildfires, drought, flooding, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the United States experienced 14 separate billion-dollar disasters in 2019, according to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and those impacts and costs are projected to increase as long as greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated; and

WHEREAS, coastal communities across the country could spend more than \$400 billion on sea wall construction over the next five to ten years to protect against chronic flooding from near term sea-level rise under a conservative emissions scenario, and [X city/county/state] could spend [X] billion on the same; and

WHEREAS, [X state] has estimated that the costs of adapting and rebuilding infrastructure to protect against rising seas alone will total more than [\$X] ; and

WHEREAS, [X state] will experience a variety of other climate impacts, including [more intense and frequent hurricanes, extreme weather and drought, dangerous temperatures, flooding, increased wildfires, the spread of vector-borne diseases], and will need to address a far wider range of related damages including, [losses to agriculture and tourism industries, compromised water, waste management, and transportation systems, climate gentrification of lower-income neighborhoods, negative public health outcomes, job losses and losses to local businesses, homes, schools and infrastructure in need of upgrades and repairs], and more; and

WHEREAS, due to an ongoing history of systemic racial and economic inequities, low-income communities and communities of color across the country and in [X state] are most

exposed to these threats, yet often go without access to the resources necessary in order to adapt, recover, and build resilience; and

WHEREAS, as of 2017, in the United States, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from burning fossil fuels amounted to 76% of total human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs). NASA explains the “greenhouse effect” as when carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides trap heat in the atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise, known as “global warming”; and

WHEREAS, internal industry documents reveal that fossil fuel company scientists questioned the long-term future of fossil fuel use and knew that fossil fuel usage would result in “potentially catastrophic” climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies went on to produce, market, promote, and sell fossil fuels over the last 50 years despite the knowledge that their products would significantly contribute to irreversible global warming, and without protecting or warning consumers about the dangers; and have spent millions of dollars on campaigns to conceal the truth to protect their own profits;

WHEREAS, any corporation that makes a product that causes severe harm when used as intended should shoulder the costs of abating that harm; and

WHEREAS, twenty-four communities across the country including the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Delaware, and Connecticut have filed lawsuits against companies that produce, promote, market, and profit from the sale of fossil fuels under public nuisance and other torts, product liability, and/or consumer protection claims; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the [X governing body] does hereby urge [X state Governor and Attorney General] to pursue appropriate legal action against fossil fuel companies, in order to protect state residents by shifting the past and present costs associated with the harms caused by climate change onto the companies that have created those harms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the [X state] House of Representatives and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of [X], and to the Attorney General of [X state].

Calling on Your State Congressional Delegation to Oppose a Liability Waiver

Summary: Oil and gas companies knew over 50 years ago that their products would cause climate change. But even as they prepared their own operations for what was to come, the fossil fuel industry deliberately misled the public, Congress, and the media about the dangers of climate change in order to protect their profits. As a result, confronting this crisis now requires local and state governments to embark on expensive adaptation, resilience, and recovery projects, which taxpayers are funding entirely on their own. Today, cities, counties, and states across the country are taking the fossil fuel industry to court to recover the costs and hold them accountable for their deception.

In the coming year, the industry is likely to ask for a liability waiver from Congress that would provide complete and total immunity from these types of climate lawsuits. A waiver would block access to the courts for citizens, businesses, municipalities and states, taking away the best mechanism left in play to hold the industry accountable for its misdeeds. Though countless others (including tobacco and opioids) have tried, only one major industry has ever received blanket immunity: gun manufacturers.

The fossil fuel industry's request for a waiver has so far come up twice in policy proposals: once as a provision in a carbon tax proposal, and once in proposed language for the first draft COVID-19 stimulus bill. While this liability waiver has been removed from both proposals, it will almost certainly reappear as policy negotiations continue.

The following resolution can be used as a guide to urge Congress to reject any bill or amendment that includes a liability waiver for the fossil fuel industry, and to include a savings clause to protect access to the courts for those seeking compensation for climate damages in future policy proposals. Including locally-specific impacts and costs is important. You can find good examples of how climate change is impacting your communities here:

- The High Tide Tax: 2019 study by the Center for Climate Integrity and Resilient Analytics that examines the costs of basic coastal defenses under moderate sea level rise
- States at Risk: 2015 project by Climate Central that demonstrates how Americans in all 50 states are experiencing the impacts of climate change
- Underwater: 2018 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists that analyzes risks faced by US coastal real estate due to rising seas
- Killer Heat: 2019 report and interactive map by the Union of Concerned Scientists that assesses the future of dangerously rising temperatures across the U.S.
- Neighborhoods at Risk: tool from Headwaters Economics that shows demographic vulnerability to climate change by census tract/neighborhood

Disclaimer: Any resolutions should be vetted by local legal and policy authorities before being introduced for consideration. The language used in the resolution below can also be edited to reflect costs associated with other climate impacts including more frequent and severe wildfires, drought, extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and more.

Title: Resolution Urging the [X State] Congressional Delegation to Oppose a Liability Waiver for the Fossil Fuel Industry

WHEREAS, communities across the United States are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising global temperatures, including but not limited to sea-level rise, warming atmospheric and ocean temperatures, more frequent and devastating wildfires, drought, flooding, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the United States experienced 14 separate billion-dollar disasters in 2019, according to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and those impacts and costs are projected to increase as long as greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated; and

WHEREAS, coastal communities across the country could spend more than \$400 billion on sea wall construction over the next five to ten years to protect against chronic flooding from near term sea-level rise under a conservative emissions scenario, and [X city/county/state] could spend \$[X] billion on the same; and

WHEREAS, the state of [X] could spend as much as [X] on sea wall construction over the next five to ten years to protect against chronic flooding from near term sea-level rise under a conservative emissions scenario; and

WHEREAS, [X state] taxpayers are currently bearing the entirety of costs to rebuild and adapt homes, infrastructure, and properties to increasingly devastating impacts; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by internal industry documents, fossil fuel companies knew as far back as 1968 that their products would cause significant harm to the climate and to communities across the globe, yet funded campaigns to conceal, obscure and deny the reality of that threat for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, twenty-four municipal and state governments across the country have filed lawsuits seeking to recover the escalating costs local governments will incur to adapt and repair their communities from climate instability and/or to hold oil and gas companies accountable for defrauding consumers; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies have previously sought a liability waiver from Congress that would provide the industry with blanket immunity from all past, present and future climate damages; and

WHEREAS, a liability waiver was also sought by other industries facing legal liability including opioid, tobacco, and gasoline additive manufacturers, but all, with the exception of gun manufacturers, were denied; and

WHEREAS, without the ability to recover the costs of climate adaptation, resilience and recovery, local governments may be forced to cut existing public services, raise taxes, or relocate neighborhoods entirely as climate-related expenditures continue to balloon; and

WHEREAS, just as tobacco, opioid, lead and other industries that deceived consumers about the harms associated with their products were held accountable for a share of the resulting damages, the fossil fuel industry must not be allowed to escape legal liability and pass off the extraordinary costs of its business operations with impunity; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, 60 members of the House of Representatives signed a letter urging Congressional leadership “to categorically oppose any attempt to confer immunity on the fossil fuel industry or to limit its liability for the damages it causes to people or property,”; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that [X governing body] does hereby urge [X state’s] Congressional delegation to unequivocally oppose a liability waiver for the fossil fuel industry, should it ever be included in any bill moving forward, and to include a savings clause to protect access to the courts for those seeking compensation for climate damages in future legislative proposals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these efforts are essential to the protection of communities’ access to the courts, their right to seek remedies as a result of these companies’ legacy of deception, misinformation and denial, and to the protection of public health and welfare as the consequences of the fossil fuel industry’s actions continue to arrive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the [X state] General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of [X], and to the Attorney General of the State of [X].

Making a Climate Emergency Declaration

Summary: As the climate crisis accelerates in communities across the country and threatens critical infrastructure, public health, safety and resources, local and municipal governments are searching for ways to protect their residents. From wildfires to extreme weather events, dangerous temperatures to air pollution and the spread of infectious disease, the hazards of climate change are here today — and lives are at risk.

The same oil and gas companies who knowingly caused this crisis are now not only failing to scale down their operations to address it — they are increasing the production of fossil fuels while claiming in their public relations and marketing to be doing just the opposite.

The science is clear: a failure to keep warming within 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030 will result in mass extinction events, permanent ecosystem disruptions and life-threatening conditions for our communities. According to intergovernmental assessments, meeting this ambitious goal will require bold and immediate action to drastically reduce emissions. The severity of harm to vulnerable communities and their ability to adapt will depend on whether or not these warnings are taken seriously, and the oil industry's ongoing propaganda is standing in the way.

Declaring a climate emergency is a way to bring the realities of this crisis into sharp relief and to set the appropriate context for bold climate action. The following resolution is adapted from a template drafted by The Climate Mobilization, and can be used as a guide to call upon local and state governments to declare a climate emergency. Including locally-specific impacts and costs is important. You can find good examples of how climate change is impacting your communities here:

- [The High Tide Tax](#): 2019 study by the Center for Climate Integrity and Resilient Analytics that examines the costs of basic coastal defenses under moderate sea level rise
- [States at Risk](#): 2015 project by Climate Central that demonstrates how Americans in all 50 states are experiencing the impacts of climate change
- [Underwater](#): 2018 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists that analyzes risks faced by US coastal real estate due to rising seas
- [Killer Heat](#): 2019 report and interactive map by the Union of Concerned Scientists that assesses the future of dangerously rising temperatures across the U.S.
- [Neighborhoods at Risk](#): tool from Headwaters Economics that shows demographic vulnerability to climate change by census tract/neighborhood

Disclaimer: Any resolutions should be vetted by local legal and policy authorities before being introduced for consideration.

Title: Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Emergency Mobilization Effort to Restore a Safe Climate

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C;”

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by current average global warming of 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity because of lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to heat waves;

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the dangerous 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030;

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

WHEREAS, as evidenced by internal industry documents, major fossil fuel companies knew as far back as 1968 that their products would cause significant injury to the climate and to communities across the globe, yet funded campaigns to conceal, obscure and deny the reality of that threat for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, just 100 companies, many of them based in the United States, bear responsibility for 71% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the 2017 Carbon Majors Report; and

WHEREAS, the largest oil and gas companies continue to deceptively market their products and role in the climate crisis while internal industry documents reveal that many have plans to significantly increase their carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, in July 2019, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Earl Blumenauer, and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced a concurrent Congressional resolution to declare a national climate emergency in the United States, calling for a “national, social,

industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency and to restore the climate for future generations;”

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; to rapidly and safely drawdown and remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere at emergency speed and until safe, pre-industrial climate conditions are restored; and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate breakdown;

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include:

- a) A rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
- b) Ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy;
- c) A widespread effort to safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere;
- d) A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and
- e) An end to the Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems;
- f) Holding accountable those companies that continue to deceive the public and policymakers about their role in the climate crisis, and ensuring that those companies, not the communities they made vulnerable, are responsible for the climate damages they knowingly caused;

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline and marginalized communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort and that they benefit first from the transition to a climate-safe economy and from any damages awarded through litigation against the fossil fuel industry;

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency, which will include public education on the origins of the climate crisis;

WHEREAS, [CITY/COUNTY] can act as a global leader through initiating an emergency mobilization to convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, [CITY/COUNTY] declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the

natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, [CITY/COUNTY] commits to a [city/county]wide mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, ends [city/county]wide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030 and immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, ensuring a just transition for residents and accelerating adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local climate impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] Council directs that an all-staff meeting be held to educate [CITY/COUNTY] staff on the latest climate science and the mobilization of resources needed in response within two weeks of the date of this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] Council directs [RELEVANT DEPT/AGENCY] to report back within X days with an assessment of the existing and future costs for [CITY/COUNTY] to adapt to and recover from climate-related impacts to critical infrastructure, public health, safety and resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] Council directs all [CITY/COUNTY] Departments, proprietaries, and commissions to report back within 60 days of the date of the all-staff meeting referenced above on maximum emergency reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from their operations feasible by the end of 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] Council directs [RELEVANT DEPT/AGENCY] to report back within 90 days on the feasibility for the rapid phase out of fossil fuel production, power generation, and use within [city/county] limits, including immediate changes to building codes, local ordinances, and permitting processes to prevent the construction of new local fossil fuel infrastructure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] Council directs the [DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING] to report back on opportunities for radical greenhouse gas and co-pollutant emissions reductions and greenhouse gas drawdown opportunities through updates to the [CITY/COUNTY GENERAL PLAN] and [COMMUNITY PLAN], including metrics that prioritize the decrease of fossil fuel use and climate-adaptive land use planning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] Council directs the [CITY/COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER] and [EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT] to report back on opportunities and funding to address the climate and ecological emergency and its impacts through existing hazard mitigation programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, [CITY/COUNTY] directs the [CITY/COUNTY CLERK] to work with the [EXISTING SUSTAINABILITY STAFF/DEPARTMENT] to include greenhouse gas and co-pollutant impact statements, greenhouse gas and co-pollutant reduction and greenhouse gas drawdown statements in all relevant Council motions, much as it currently includes fiscal impact statements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] directs the [OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS] to work with the [OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION] to report back within 90 days on the establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization [DEPARTMENT/TASK FORCE/MANAGER] to oversee the city-wide mobilization effort, with all necessary powers to coordinate [CITY/COUNTY] climate and environment programs including the development of a 10-year “Climate Mobilization Action Plan” to guide the climate emergency response, as well as all climate mitigation, resilience, adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and research and development programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] commits to engaging our residents in public deliberations on the climate emergency, which will directly inform the creation of the [CITY/COUNTY] Climate Mobilization Action Plan in order to accomplish this city-wide climate mobilization effort and to ensure a just transition with the full democratic participation of the residents of [CITY/COUNTY];

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] commits to keeping the concerns of frontline and marginalized central to all Climate Emergency Mobilization program planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in the development and implementation of this Climate Mobilization Action Plan and all climate mobilization efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] commits to holding polluters accountable for their role in creating and exacerbating the climate crisis, and ensuring that [CITY/COUNTY] residents are not left to shoulder the cost of adaptation and resiliency projects on their own;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] recognizes that the full participation, inclusion, support, and leadership of community organizations, faith communities, youth, labor organizations, academic institutions, indigenous groups, and racial, gender, family, immigrant and disability justice and organizations and other allies are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the [CITY/COUNTY] joins a national-wide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort focused on rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the [CITY/COUNTY] hereby includes in its 2019 and 2020 Federal Legislative Program, support for H.Con.Res.52 and S.Con.Res.22, “Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes,” as well as any legislation that would initiate a national emergency-speed mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, as described in the text of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, [CITY/COUNTY] calls on the State of _____, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, the [CITY/COUNTY] shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to [FEDERAL, STATE, REGIONAL, COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS, RELEVANT AGENCIES] and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

To: Interested Parties
From: Gabi Porter, Campaigns Director at the Center for Climate Integrity
RE: NJ-03 Climate Accountability Polling
Date: August 10, 2020

Background

The Center for Climate Integrity, a project of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, is driven by our mission to empower citizens and elected officials with the tools they need to hold corporate polluters accountable for their role in causing the climate crisis.

We set out to learn how voters in communities feeling the brunt of climate change and its impacts view the climate crisis, and who they believe should ultimately be responsible for the costs associated with adaptation and resiliency projects. This survey expands on online surveys conducted in 2017 and 2019.

This survey was fielded by Expedition Strategies on July 8-12, 2020 with 400 likely voters in the third congressional district.

Findings

A majority of voters in NJ-03 are worried about the immediate impacts of climate change, with 79% indicating that they are “somewhat” or “very” concerned. Even more are worried about how climate change will impact future generations, with 83% saying they are “somewhat” or “very” concerned. The health impacts of climate change are top of mind for New Jerseyans, with 54% of voters saying that health of the people of New Jersey is what concerns them most about climate change.

NJ-03 voters want oil and gas companies to be held accountable for their role in creating the climate crisis. After learning about the industry’s history of climate denial and deception:

- 84% of voters want oil and gas companies to pay for all or some of the costs associated with protecting their communities from the impacts of climate change.
- 77% of voters think they aren’t paying their fair share right now.
- **68% of NJ-03 voters support suing oil and gas companies to hold them accountable for their pollution and the costs associated with climate change.**

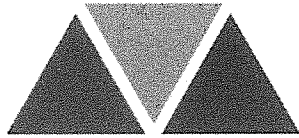
Approval of climate liability litigation is markedly higher than the job approval of President Donald Trump (44%) and Rep. Andy Kim (53%).

It is interesting to note that support for suing oil companies is higher with Democrats and Independents than voters overall. An overwhelming number of Democrats (90%) and 74% of Independents support suing fossil fuel companies.

Messaging

We tested several messages in support of climate accountability litigation and a “polluter pays” agenda. The most effective messages are below:

- **Hid Knowledge:** Sixty-nine percent of voters are more likely to support suing oil and gas companies after hearing this message. This was also the top-testing message for Democrats and Republicans:
 - By the 1960s, oil and gas companies knew that their products would be significant contributors to climate change and their own studies warned that their products would cause “serious worldwide environmental change”. Instead of informing the public, oil and gas companies launched a multi-billion dollar, decades-long disinformation campaign to lie to the public, lawmakers, and the media about the impacts their products had on the climate. To this day, they continue to pollute.
- **Personal Costs:** Sixty-nine percent of voters are more likely to support suing oil and gas companies after hearing this message. This was also the top-testing message for Independents:
 - Climate change is already increasing what you pay on your utility bills and insurance premiums, and soon tax increases will likely be required to help pay for protecting coastal communities and improvements in roads, bridges, sewer systems, and storm drainage due to the impacts of climate change. Oil and gas executives knew their products caused climate change and spent decades lying to the public. They should share in the costs of helping clean up their mess.



LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT FOR Bradley Beach, NJ

What is 'Leaders for Climate Accountability'?

Leaders for Climate Accountability (L4CA) is a national alliance of elected leaders committed to holding polluters accountable for the costs of climate change. Cities and states across the country are seeing already tight budgets decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with little support from Washington. And with climate change exacerbating long-overdue upgrades to infrastructure, the threat of supercharged wildfires and hurricanes, and public health disasters, local governments find themselves in a critical position. L4CA are ready to take action now to protect their communities — and their public budgets.

Why It Matters

The Garden State is feeling the impacts of climate change — and adapting won't come cheap. Facing rapid temperature increases, more frequent and intense extreme storms, and changes in average climate conditions that will continue to damage the state's infrastructure and ecosystems, the people of New Jersey are set to experience economic impacts estimated in the billions of dollars as a result of climate change.

A 2019 study by the Center for Climate Integrity and Resilient Analytics found that Monmouth County can expect to pay \$1.4 billion over the next 20 years for seawalls. To put that into perspective, the Monmouth County annual budget is \$452.8 million. That is just one expenditure of many the county will need to take on to defend against a far wider range of climate-driven impacts.

However, this crisis wasn't a foregone conclusion. The climate emergency was created by decades of denial, deception, and disinformation by the fossil fuel industry. Internal documents show that oil and gas companies knew over 50 years ago that their products would cause climate change. By the 1980s, they were predicting that use of their fossil fuel products would cause "globally catastrophic" effects.

But even as they prepared their own operations and infrastructure for rising temperatures and sea levels, the fossil fuel industry deliberately misled the public, policymakers, and the media about the dangers of climate change in order to protect their profits.

Companies like ExxonMobil didn't play fair, and now our communities are paying the price. We need to hold them accountable.

Sample Social Media Posts

- \$1.4 billion. That's how much our community will need to spend to defend our coastlines against rising seas. Read more about about how climate change is impacting our community today: <https://climatecosts2040.org/costs/new-jersey-monmouth-county>
- New Jersey taxpayers are facing a multibillion-dollar price tag to protect our families, homes, and livelihoods. Oil and gas executives' climate denial made this mess. Learn more about how I'll make them pay their fair share: <https://payupclimatepolluters.org/campaigns/new-jersey/>
- 1968: API says fossil fuels may cause "world-wide environmental changes." 1983: Mobil realizes that global warming could hurt profits. 1988: Exxon decides to go all-in on climate denial. 2020: Big Oil wants us to pay \$1.4 billion to adapt to climate change? I don't think so.
- Accountability matters. I'm proud to be recognized as a @L4CA_ and promise to stand up for our community and make sure corporate polluters pay their fair share. Learn more about climate accountability here: <https://payupclimatepolluters.org/smoking-guns>
- I'm saying enough is enough to climate polluters like Exxon — New Jersey is going to hold you accountable: <https://payupclimatepolluters.org/smoking-guns>
- Corporate polluters lied about climate change for decades, and put Black and Brown communities at risk. Enough is enough. It's time to hold them accountable. I've just joined @L4CA_ to do just that.
- Fossil fuels execs are responsible for the climate crisis and they want a get-out-of-jail-free card. I won't stand for it. Learn about Big Oil's latest con, and how I'm standing up for you: <https://payupclimatepolluters.org/liability-waiver>
- Local problems need local solutions. I'm standing up for Bradley Beach residents and our right to hold corporations accountable for the damage they've done to our community — from opioids to climate change to workplace safety: <https://payupclimatepolluters.org/campaigns/new-jersey/>
- The reality is that Bradley Beach residents did not create climate change, and they shouldn't be the only ones stuck with the bills. <https://payupclimatepolluters.org/climate-costs-2040>

Talking Points

Oil and gas executives knew about climate change for decades

- Internal documents prove that the fossil fuel industry knew its products would create dangerous climate change as early as 1968.
- Company scientists from ExxonMobil were some of the earliest experts on the greenhouse gas effect, and openly worried about the “potentially catastrophic” consequences of the unchecked warming we have since experienced.

Corporate polluters lied to the public about climate change to protect their profits

- Instead of disclosing what they knew and adjusting their business-as-usual model to minimize the risk, Exxon waged a campaign to spread climate denial and deliberately deceive the public, media and lawmakers about the threat.
- Even while protecting their own infrastructure from worsening climate impacts — i.e., raising oil rigs to safeguard against rising seas — Exxon doubled down on its deception, spending upwards of \$30 million on ads, front groups, and fake science to fabricate public doubt about the connection between burning fossil fuels and rising global temperatures, all in an effort to delay any climate policy that would threaten their bottom line.

Your community is paying the price for the fossil fuel industry’s actions

- While Exxon spread climate denial to block action on climate change, taxpayers got stuck with higher utility bills, insurance premiums, infrastructure costs, and more.
- Today, communities are footing a multibillion dollar bill to protect our homes, families, jobs, economies, infrastructure, and public health from extreme temperatures, more frequent and destructive storms, devastating flooding and more. Some examples:
 - \$1.4 billion for seawalls in Monmouth County
 - \$25 billion for seawalls in New Jersey
 - \$36.9 billion for Hurricane Sandy

It’s up to local leadership to hold them accountable

- Climate change impacts aren’t just a global phenomenon — our communities face specific, local damages requiring specific, localized adaptation costs.
- Many of these adaptation and resiliency projects fall on local communities to fund and execute. They’re expensive and complicated.
 - These costs are usually highest in Black and Brown and low-income communities, where structural issues of inequality exacerbate their inability to pay for them.

- Local budgets are already overstretched, and the cost of these important climate infrastructure projects is often greater than the entirety of the municipality's budget.
- We know that the oil and gas industry played an outsized role in climate change, and that they lied to protect their business. Our communities need the fossil fuel industry to pay its fair share.

Email Templates

Climate change is an emissions problem.

Subject: Understanding the size of your carbon footprint

Dear <<Friend>>,

Most of us are trying to do our part to help combat climate change: bringing our reusable bags to the grocery store, biking or walking to work, and making sure we're recycling when we can. But if you're like me, you still feel a twinge of guilt when you hear about the latest hurricane devastation or read that our town just saw the hottest day on record — again. It can feel like it's all our fault and we're just not doing enough.

The truth of the matter is, everyday people like you and me aren't really responsible for climate change. Climate change is caused by the burning of fossil fuels which produce carbon emissions, and 71% of all of those emissions comes from just 100 companies. Most of these companies are in the oil and gas business. Regular people living their lives isn't even a drop in the bucket; we're more like a single grain of sand compared to the entire Sahara.

Big corporations and their executives should have to play by the same rules we do. Even the littlest children understand that when you make a mess, you take responsibility and help clean it up. These companies should do the same.

Send me an email and tell me your thoughts: How do we hold these companies accountable?

Best,

John Weber

Oil companies knew about climate change long before we did.

Subject:

Dear <<Friend>>,

Imagine this: you go to work one day to find a report sitting on your desk detailing all sorts of disaster and devastation. You read about shriveling crops, unbearable heat, and flooding that wipe entire cities off the map — a picture of the future if your company keeps up with its business as usual.

You would sound the alarm and do everything in your power to make sure this didn't happen, right? You certainly wouldn't hide what you had discovered and actively discredit anyone who tried to tell the truth.

The thing is, this *did* happen. And the people with those reports did the exact opposite of what you or I would have done—they lied, deceived and hid the truth.

No later than 1968, the oil and gas industry knew that their products were causing global warming. Instead of playing fair and letting us know the problems headed our way, these executives spent big to bury the truth. It's exactly like tobacco companies pretending that cigarettes aren't bad for our lungs.

It's bad enough that these companies are responsible for the lion's share of the products that cause climate change — but to then turn around and pretend everything was fine so they could protect their bottom line is inexcusable.

Companies of all sizes have a duty to be good corporate citizens, and oil and gas companies are no exception.

I believe that my colleagues and I in Bradley Beach have a responsibility to hold bad corporate actors accountable, but I want your input. What does accountability mean to you?

In service,

John Weber

Climate change is taking a financial toll on our community.

Subject: What would you do with \$41 billion?

Dear <<Friend>>,

\$43 billion. That's the minimum cost to protect our community from the effects of climate change. Here's what I mean:

- \$36.9 billion - the cost of recovery in New Jersey from Hurricane Sandy
- \$1.4 billion by 2040 for seawalls to protect Monmouth County from chronic flooding
- \$4.5 billion - the cost to repair New Jersey's increasingly flooded roads

This doesn't include the cost of other critical infrastructure upgrades like updating sewer systems and improving storm drainage.

For context, Bradley Beach could use that same amount of money to put new computers in classrooms, build new parks, or hire new firefighters.

In the face of COVID-19, these costs will be harder than ever for our community to take on, thanks to already tight local budgets that have been decimated by the pandemic.

The first step in tackling this problem is understanding exactly what needs to be fixed and how much it's going to cost — and then figuring out how our community is going to pay for it.

We know that oil and gas companies are responsible for most of the pollution that causes climate change, and that they spent years hiding that important piece of information.

I want to hear from my constituents: Who do you think should pay for our community to adapt and prepare for the impacts of climate change?

Sincerely,

John Weber

Polluters should pay for the cost of climate change.

Subject: A lesson I teach my own kids

Dear <<Friend>>,

I know that I try to teach my children to do what's right: be kind to others, stick up for the little person, and play fair. I know that the people of Bradley Beach do the same.

And so even our youngest community members know that when you do something wrong, you work to make it right.

It's time we hold everyone to that same standard we hold our kids to.

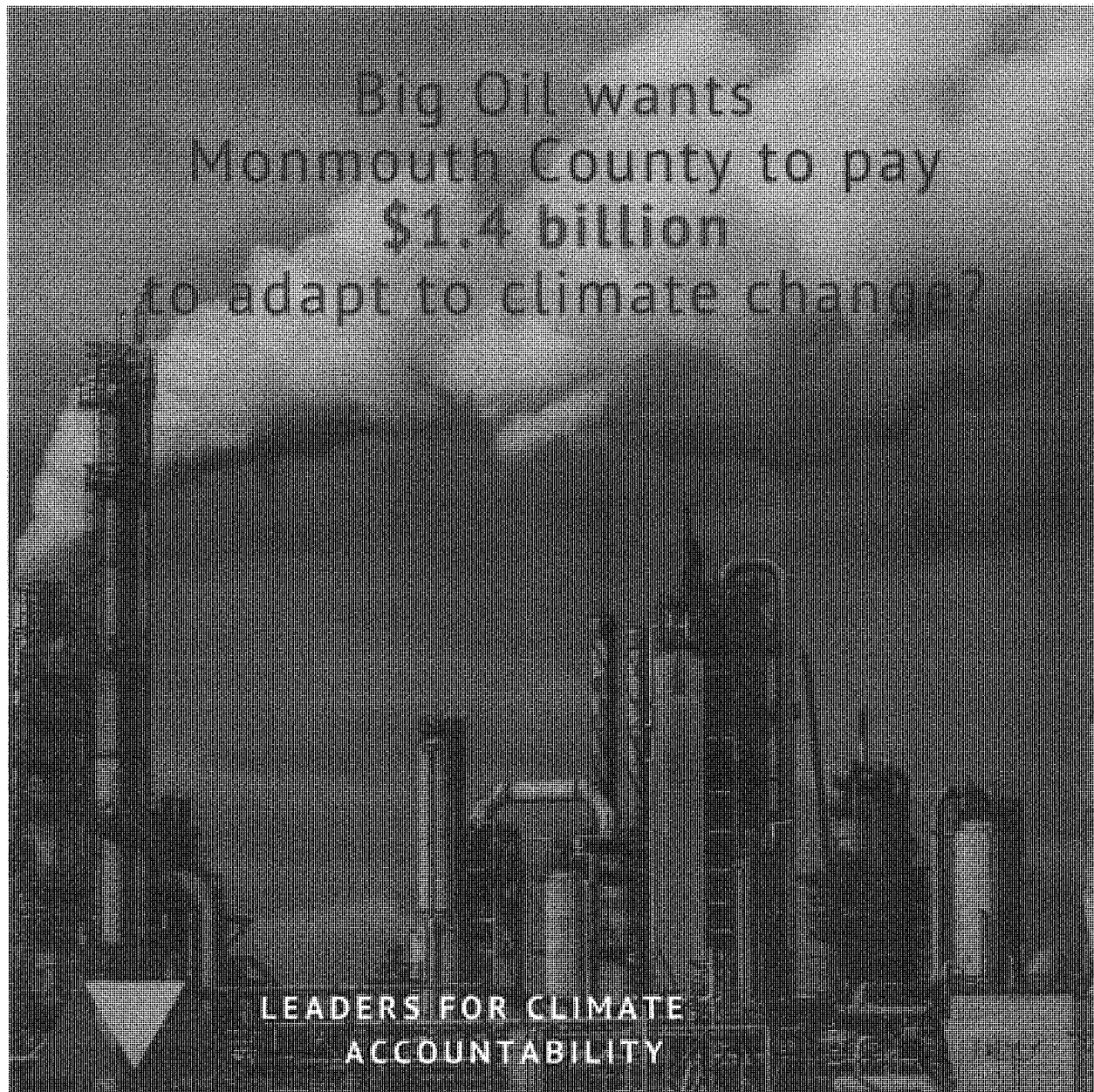
That's why I'm calling to hold oil and gas companies accountable for the way climate change has hurt our communities. From chronic flooding to climbing temperatures, it's going to cost Bradley Beach a lot to protect our community. We shouldn't have to foot the bill on our own. Oil and gas companies made this mess. It's time they helped clean it up.

Sign [this petition](#) to make oil and gas companies pay their fair share.

All the best,

John Weber

Graphics





Q: What causes climate change?

A: Climate change is caused by greenhouse gas emissions trapped in the earth's atmosphere. Most of these emissions are caused by just 100 companies.

LEADERS FOR CLIMATE
ACCOUNTABILITY



EVERYDAY PEOPLE DID NOT
CREATE CLIMATE CHANGE.

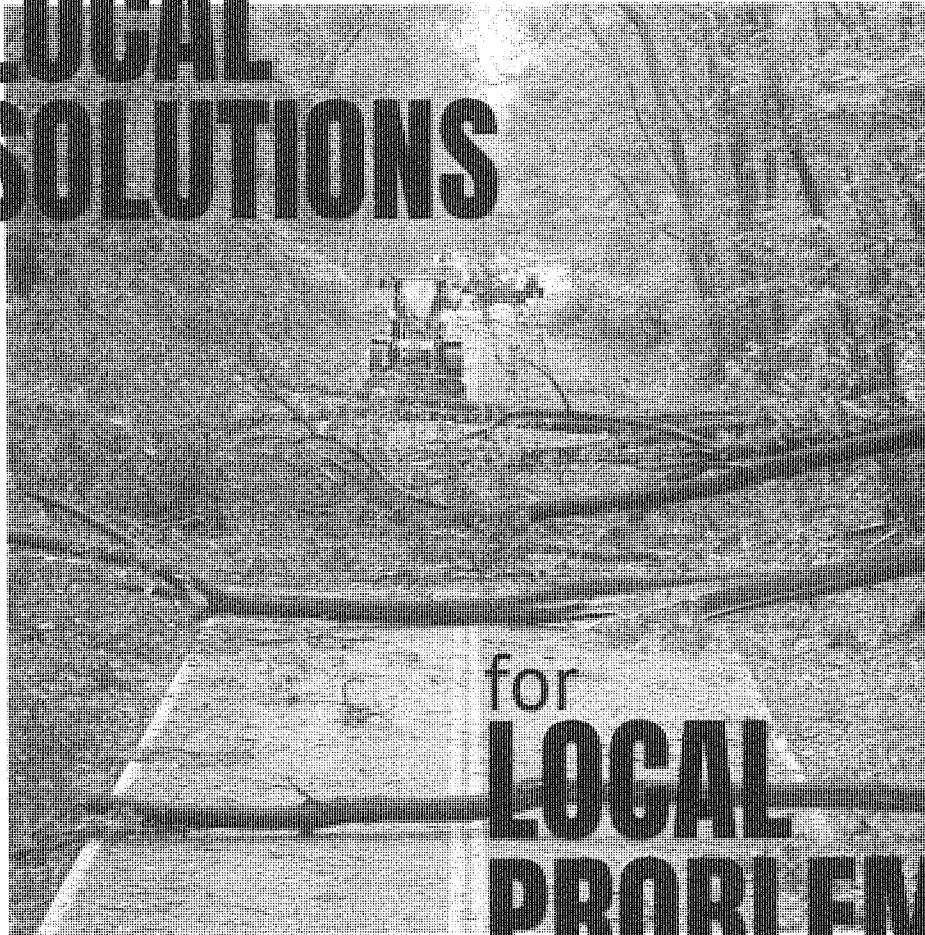
WILLIAM D. CRUZ

ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS



LEADERS FOR CLIMATE
ACCOUNTABILITY

LOCAL SOLUTIONS



for
**LOCAL
PROBLEMS**



LEADERS FOR CLIMATE
ACCOUNTABILITY

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HURTING OUR COMMUNITY.
IT'S TIME WE HELD CLIMATE POLLUTERS
ACCOUNTABLE.

A black and white photograph of a flooded street. The water is murky and reflects the light. In the distance, a car is visible on the road. The overall tone is somber and urgent.

LEADERS FOR CLIMATE
ACCOUNTABILITY