

May 14, 2025

Re: No Immunity for the Fossil Fuel Industry

To the following members of Connecticut's congressional delegation:

Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Chris Murphy
Representative John Larson
Representative Joe Courtney
Representative Rosa L. DeLauro
Representative Jim Himes
Representative Jahana Hayes

As we witness the new Trump administration work alongside powerful corporate interests to systemically attack environmental protections, the rule of law, and bedrock democratic principles, we write to urge you to proactively and affirmatively reject any proposal that would shield fossil fuel companies from the growing number of legal and legislative efforts to hold them accountable for their role in the climate crisis.

As extreme weather events are becoming more deadly and destructive as a result of pollution from fossil fuels, Connecticut is facing massive costs to recover from worsening flooding and storms in addition to protecting residents and infrastructure from the threat of future climate disasters. The major oil and gas companies that produce, market, and sell these harmful fossil fuels have known for decades that their products posed a "potentially catastrophic" risk to the climate, but as a joint House-Senate committee investigation last year concluded, they have engaged in a long-running and ongoing campaign to deceive the public, protect their profits, and delay our transition to cleaner and safer energy.

Connecticut is already leading the charge by taking ExxonMobil to court to stop the company's climate lies and hold it accountable for this historic and ongoing deception.¹ Additionally, state lawmakers are considering a so-called climate superfund law, which would force the largest privately-owned climate polluters to help pay for the growing costs to protect public infrastructure from climate-fueled damages. The fossil fuel industry has fiercely attacked these lawsuits and legislative efforts in court, but to date has not succeeded in its efforts to escape accountability.

Fossil fuel CEOs have already met with President Trump to raise concerns with their potential legal liability for fueling climate change, while oil and gas lobbyists are lobbying Congress to shield them from the dozens of lawsuits they face across the country for their lies.² These oil

¹ <https://climateintegrity.org/lawsuits>

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

giants have gone as far to suggest the Justice Department should sue states for proposing and advancing climate superfund laws that hold polluters financially accountable for the climate damage they have caused.

This effort is not new. Trump has vowed to quash lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry,³ and at least twice in recent history — once in 2017⁴, and again in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic — there have been documented efforts by oil companies and their allies to secure a blanket waiver of liability for their industry. In response to the latter effort, 60 Democratic House members urged leadership to categorically oppose efforts to “immunize polluters.”⁵ “Shielding the carbon polluters from legal accountability does not belong on our agenda,” they wrote then. That principled solidarity is even more important and urgent now.

The fossil fuel industry and its allies are using the chaos and overreach of the new Trump administration to attempt yet again to pass some form of liability waiver and shield themselves from facing consequences for their decades of pollution and deception. That effort — no matter what form it takes — must not be allowed to succeed.

Our communities across the country are suffering grave threats to our public health, safety, and economic security as a result of Big Oil’s climate deception and pollution. Governments, residents, businesses, and others must have access to legal and legislative remedies in order to hold fossil fuel companies accountable, seek justice, and make polluters pay.

We know there are many important fights for justice and accountability that are taking place now and that will occur in the months and years that follow. But we, the undersigned organizations and elected officials, respectfully urge you in the strongest possible terms to fight for climate accountability and draw a line in the sand now in firm opposition to any Congressional efforts to bail out climate polluters from facing legal and legislative consequences for their central role in the climate crisis.

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

Sincerely,

Climate Reality Project of Southern Connecticut
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Connecticut Public Health Association
Conservation Law Foundation
198 Methods

3

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2023/09/11/trump-vows-to-block-climate-litigation-against-big-oil-00114744>

⁴ <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/1060056423>

⁵

<https://raskin.house.gov/2020/5/raskin-leads-60-members-opposing-climate-change-immunity-grabs-fossil-fuel>

7 Directions of Service
Bold Alliance
Center for Climate Integrity
Climate Defenders
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
EOPA Code Blue
Fossil Free Media
Friends of the Earth US
GreenFaith
Greenpeace USA
Oil & Gas Action Network
Oil Change International
Our Revolution
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Popular Democracy
Public Citizen
Stand.earth
The People's Justice Council
Third Act
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Waterkeeper Alliance
WildEarth Guardians
Youth Climate Finance Alliance
Senator Saud Anwar
Representative Anne Hughes
Representative Josh Elliott
Representative Mary Mushinsky
City Councilor TJ Clarke II, Hartford