Update on the Congressional investigation & other news
14 November 2016

Dear friends of Climate Accountability Institute:

CAI responded to Chairman Smith’s letter of 13 October 2016 in a letter from our attorney Neil Quinter of Brownstein Hyatt LLP filed on 27 October. Let me know if you’d like a copy.

Mr. Quinter pointed out, as we did in our 13 July response, that CAI “has not met with or otherwise discussed our quantitative and accountability work with State Attorneys General.” We do not intend to comply with the subpoena’s request to provide documents and email communications, nor will we accept the invitation of a “transcribed interview of Richard Heede in his capacity of founder and director of CAI.” The Chairman does not veil his intention to pursue enforcement including initiating proceedings “to find {Mr. Heede} in contempt of Congress, or ... civil enforcement action in federal court.”

Our response affirms that the “1) the Committee does not have the jurisdiction to issue this subpoena, and 2) the subpoena violates our client’s First Amendment rights.” Mr. Quinter reiterates CAI’s offer to “discuss its important climate change work with the Committee.”

In a separate but related matter, I received a subpoena from Paul, Weiss LLP (attorneys for ExxonMobil) on 9 November “to produce documents, information, or objects” in the case of ExxonMobil Corp v. Maura Healey Massachusetts AG filed in U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas. I am discussing CAI’s response with UCS and its attorney.

A sampling of recent press coverage, for your further reading:

*Boston Globe* (2016) Congressional bullying on behalf of Big Oil - editorial, 12 September.


*Johnson, S* (2016) Lamar Smith invites legal scholars to tell him what he's doing is fine, *Ars Technica*, 16 Sep


Hasemyer, David (2016) Exxon Widens Climate Battle, May Depose 17 State AGs, InsideClimate News, 10 November.
Hulac, Benjamin (2016) GOP chairman sails to victory, setting up showdown with enviros, ClimateWire, 10 November.

Our work is also featured in more technical fora:
Drollette Jr., Dan (2016) Just 90 companies are accountable for more than 60 percent of greenhouse gases: Interview with Richard Heede, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, 27 October 2016.

Douglas Starr, Co-Director Graduate Program in Science Journalism, Boston University, wrote an excellent profile of our history, mission, and climate work in Science.

Participants from CAI, UCS, 350.org, and Greenpeace filmed a segment for Samantha Bee’s Full Frontal (TBS); I also recorded an interview with Alex Smith of Radio EcoShock. Both segments will air in the next few weeks.

I gave an invited paper at the International Conference on Fossil Fuel Supply & Climate Change Policy, Queen’s College, Oxford, in late September with my CDP colleagues Paul Griffin and Pedro Faria entitled: Aligning an oil and gas company’s reserves and future emissions with a 2ºC science-based target A preliminary study of an oil and gas major

I will keep you informed. Please call me with questions, comments, or recommendations.

With respect and gratitude for your support,

Rick Heede, Director.