CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY INSTITUTE

15 October 2026

From: Rick Heede, Director of Climate Accountability Institute

To: Friends, colleagues, advisors, funders, and supporters

Re: Closing Climate Accountability Institute

Dear friends of Climate Accountability Institute:

With deep appreciation for our accomplishments and with gratitude for the crucial collaboration and support from friends, colleagues, and funders I announce, with the blessing of CAI's executive board, the closing of the Climate Accountability Institute, my intellectual home since 2011. Through this tiny organization we helped establish a quantitative approach to holding fossil fuel companies accountable for anthropogenic emissions driving climate impacts and climate damages, based chiefly on quantifying scope 1 operational and scope 3 category 11 "emissions from sold products" under the Carbon Majors accounting protocol.

The maturing field of source attribution (the Carbon Majors initiative was launched in 2014) and its contribution to the rapidly expanding field of event and end-to-end attribution is testament to its usefulness. For me, it is driven by an effort to detect and attribute responsibility for "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system" (UNFCCC, Art. 2) to private parties as a third rail to the feeble domestic policy response and global climate negotiations. Culpability, in my view, is substantially shared by these industries, and must rest on quantified attribution of emissions. The Carbon Majors database, eleven years in the making, is a rational, robust, fair, and scientifically valid effort based on company-reported production of fossil fuels and cement from as early as 1854 to the present to estimate supply-chain emissions of CO_2 and methane. The database is updated annually by London-based InfluenceMap (www.influencemap.org and www.carbonmajors.org).

This work will continue to prove crucial to scientific, educational, legal, and legislative efforts in the U.S. and abroad. There are significant head-winds from Supreme Court review of litigation (such as Boulder County v. Suncor), lower court challenges to Climate Superfund bills, and congressional efforts to shield the industry from liability. Regardless of the outcome, the fossil fuel industry — meaning both investor-owned and state-owned entities — will eventually be held accountable for supplying carbon fuels to the global stream of commerce with decades-long knowledge of their harm to consumers, investors, citizens, and the biosphere.

I am especially indebted to Naomi Oreskes, Peter Frumhoff, Keely Boom, Peter Roderick, Stephen Leonard, Kristin Casper, Carroll Muffett, and Sally Ranney for early inspiration and support.

I am profoundly grateful to all who will continue to extend the impact of this work.

My deep thanks go to the Institute's financial supporters over these last fifteen years — foundations and individual donors alike.

For those of you interested in the rationale for and findings of the arc of our projects, see "*The Arc of the Carbon Majors Work Bends Toward Fossil Fuel Company Accountability*" 2026.

Here is a list of our peer-reviewed papers and related special reports: *CAI Publications 2011-2026*.

We shall carry on.

Respectfully,

Director, Climate Accountability Institute.

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