

**From:** J Shukla  
**To:** Edward W Maibach  
**Subject:** Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
**Date:** Monday, July 20, 2015 5:13:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [Senator Sheldon Whitehouse Op Ed.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

---

Dear Ed,

Are you, like me, puzzled as to why in spite of such overwhelming scientific evidence showing the influence of human activities on the Earth's climate during the past 50-100 years, a significant fraction of the US society remains skeptical? Please see the attached Op-Ed in the Washington Post, and text of a speech Senator Sheldon Whitehouse made on the floor of the US Senate on May 6, 2015.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-fossil-fuel-industrys-campaign-to-mislead-the-american-people/2015/05/29/04a2c448-0574-11e5-8bda-c7b4e9a8f7ac\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-fossil-fuel-industrys-campaign-to-mislead-the-american-people/2015/05/29/04a2c448-0574-11e5-8bda-c7b4e9a8f7ac_story.html)

<http://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/speeches/time-to-wake-up-climate-denial-recalls-tobacco-racketeering->

According to Senator Whitehouse, the fossil-fuel industry has launched a massive and sophisticated campaign to mislead the American people about the science of global warming and its harmful effects on the people. He asserts that the fossil-fuel industry is doing what big tobacco did to deny the health dangers of smoking. Senator Whitehouse is proposing that the Department of Justice of the US government begin the inquiry to file a civil suit against the fossil-fuel industry, just like the Department of Justice did against the big tobacco companies more than 15 years ago.

I believe that human-induced climate change is already affecting our planet and our societies, and will do major harm to our future generations. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support Senator Whitehouse's proposal to begin such an investigation. I plan to write to Senator Whitehouse reiterating a strong agreement among the scientific community that climate change is real, it is happening now, it is human-induced, and that we support his proposal.

I am writing to you to ask you if you are able and willing to join me in sending a letter of support to Senator Whitehouse. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Shukla

President, Institute of Global Environment & Society  
University Professor, George Mason University

WASHINGTON POST, May 29, 2015

## **The fossil-fuel industry's campaign to mislead the American people**

By Sheldon Whitehouse May 29

*Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democrat, represents Rhode Island in the Senate.*

Fossil fuel companies and their allies are funding a massive and sophisticated campaign to mislead the American people about the environmental harm caused by carbon pollution.

Their activities are often compared to those of Big Tobacco denying the health dangers of smoking. Big Tobacco's denial scheme was ultimately found by a federal judge to have amounted to a racketeering enterprise.

The Big Tobacco playbook looked something like this: (1) pay scientists to produce studies defending your product; (2) develop an intricate web of PR experts and front groups to spread doubt about the real science; (3) relentlessly attack your opponents.

Thankfully, the government had a playbook, too: the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO. In 1999, the Justice Department filed a civil RICO lawsuit against the major tobacco companies and their associated industry groups, alleging that the companies "engaged in and executed — and continue to engage in and execute — a massive 50-year scheme to defraud the public, including consumers of cigarettes, in violation of RICO."

Tobacco spent millions of dollars and years of litigation fighting the government. But finally, through the discovery process, government lawyers were able to peel back the layers of deceit and denial and see what the tobacco companies really knew all along about cigarettes.

In 2006, Judge Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia decided that the tobacco companies' fraudulent campaign amounted to a racketeering enterprise. According to the court: "Defendants coordinated significant aspects of their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective — to . . . maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for cigarettes through a scheme to deceive the public."

The parallels between what the tobacco industry did and what the fossil fuel industry is doing now are striking.

In the case of fossil fuels, just as with tobacco, the industry joined together in a common enterprise and coordinated strategy. In 1998, the Clinton administration was building

support for international climate action under the Kyoto Protocol. The fossil fuel industry, its trade associations and the conservative policy institutes that often do the industry's dirty work met at the Washington office of the American Petroleum Institute. A memo from that meeting that was leaked to the New York Times documented their plans for a multimillion-dollar public relations campaign to undermine climate science and to raise "questions among those (e.g. Congress) who chart the future U.S. course on global climate change."

The shape of the fossil fuel industry's denial operation has been documented by, among others, Drexel University professor Robert Brulle. In a 2013 paper published in the journal Climatic Change, Brulle described a complex network of organizations and funding that appears designed to obscure the fossil fuel industry's fingerprints. To quote directly from Brulle's report, it was "a deliberate and organized effort to misdirect the public discussion and distort the public's understanding of climate." That sounds a lot like Kessler's findings in the tobacco racketeering case.

The coordinated tactics of the climate denial network, Brulle's report states, "span a wide range of activities, including political lobbying, contributions to political candidates, and a large number of communication and media efforts that aim at undermining climate science." Compare that again to the findings in the tobacco case.

The tobacco industry was proved to have conducted research that showed the direct opposite of what the industry stated publicly — namely, that tobacco use had serious health effects. Civil discovery would reveal whether and to what extent the fossil fuel industry has crossed this same line. We do know that it has funded research that — to its benefit — directly contradicts the vast majority of peer-reviewed climate science. One scientist who consistently published papers downplaying the role of carbon emissions in climate change, Willie Soon, reportedly received more than half of his funding from oil and electric utility interests: more than \$1.2 million.

To be clear: I don't know whether the fossil fuel industry and its allies engaged in the same kind of racketeering activity as the tobacco industry. We don't have enough information to make that conclusion. Perhaps it's all smoke and no fire. But there's an awful lot of smoke.

**From:** [Edward W Maibach](#)  
**To:** [J Shukla](#); [Edward W Maibach](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
**Date:** Saturday, July 25, 2015 7:27:59 AM

---

Hi Shukla,

I will draft a letter this weekend.

My inclination is to write a group letter. We can encourage other climate scientists -- in as many states and Congressional districts as possible -- to co-sign the letter. This will make it very easy for other scientists to participate.

The letter would be addressed to the President and the Attorney General -- given that they are the "deciders" on this decision -- and we would cc the Senators and Representatives of every co-signer.

If we can find one co-signer in every one of the nation's 435 Congressional districts, we will end up sending the letter to every member of Congress -- which would be spectacular. The letter will get lots of media attention.

We might be wise to ask one of the large science-based environmental advocacy to help us with this project. Union of Concerned Scientists would be a natural. I have excellent connections there. Environmental Defense would be good too, given that Eric Pooley is their director of communication, and he wrote a book about the dirty tricks of the fossil fuel industry that we can cite in the letter. Would you object to my asking for their help?

Back to you soon with a draft letter.

All the best,

Ed

Sent from my iGlasses

> On Jul 24, 2015, at 3:04 PM, J Shukla <[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)> wrote:

>

> Dear Ed,

>

> Thank you for your very helpful email. Your email has given me an idea; not only can we write letters to our leaders, I will contact about 100 climate scientists that I personally know, covering most of the states, and urge them to write to their own representatives.

>

> As I had mentioned to you before, this is all new stuff for me. I have never been formally engaged in any political debate, and therefore I completely agree with you that we have to choose our words carefully. One thing we don't have to hesitate in writing is that the evidence of human induced climate change is overwhelming. You are of course a great communicator, and it will be a big help to me if you gave me a draft of what you might write to your own Congressman/Senator on this matter. I will use your draft to prepare a more general letter, which I intend to send to at least 1 or 2 climate scientists in each of the 50 states of the US.

>

> Will appreciate any help you can provide.

>

> Regards,

> Shukla

>

>

>

>> On Jul 22, 2015, at 3:57 PM, Edward W Maibach <[emaibach@gmu.edu](mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu)> wrote:

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; Hi Shukla,

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; I had breakfast with David Michaels today. He is currently the Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (in the US Department of Labor), and a former environmental health colleague of mine at George Washington University. He is an expert in the case against the tobacco industry.

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; His feels the odds of the DOJ pursuing this case against industry are slim to none, because there are no easily quantifiable (health care) costs that the government can seek reimbursement for.

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; That said, I have no objection to our sending a letter to the President, our Maryland Senators and members of Congress (mine is John Delaney), with a cc to Senator Whitehouse, asking them to support Senator Whitehouse's call for a RICO investigaton.

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; If we do this, we should choose our words carefully, because they could wind up on page 1 of the Washington Post. In fact, if we do this, I will want to run our draft past some very thoughtful advisers.

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; All the best,

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; Ed

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD

&gt;&gt; University Professor, Department of Communication

&gt;&gt; Director, Center for Climate Change Communication

&gt;&gt; George Mason University, MS 6A8

&gt;&gt; Fairfax, VA 22030

>> [www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt;

>> From: J Shukla <[shukla@cola.iges.org](mailto:shukla@cola.iges.org)>

&gt;&gt; Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:44 AM

&gt;&gt; To: Edward W Maibach

&gt;&gt; Cc: J Shukla

&gt;&gt; Subject: Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; Dear Ed,

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; As always, excellent suggestions. I live in Maryland.

&gt;&gt; Please let me know what Bill Novelli suggests.

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; I am a novice on such matters.

&gt;&gt; In the past I had taken the view that perhaps I can be more effective as an educator if I were not engaged in political debates/actions.

&gt;&gt; I have changed my mind (with regrets as to why I waited so long!),and I have decided to get fully engaged in this process, not just the climate change issues but even the larger

&gt;&gt; issues of inequality and social justice.

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; I count on your advice.

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; Regards,

&gt;&gt; Shukla

&gt;&gt;

&gt;&gt; ----- Original Message -----

>> From: "Edward W Maibach" <[emaibach@gmu.edu](mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu)>>> To: "J Shukla" <[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)>

&gt;&gt; Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:35:38 AM

&gt;&gt; Subject: Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse



>>

>> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-fossil-fuel-industrys-campaign-to-mislead-the-american-people/2015/05/29/04a2c448-0574-11e5-8bda-c7b4e9a8f7ac\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-fossil-fuel-industrys-campaign-to-mislead-the-american-people/2015/05/29/04a2c448-0574-11e5-8bda-c7b4e9a8f7ac_story.html)

>>

>>

>> <http://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/speeches/time-to-wake-up-climate-denial-recalls-tobacco-racketeering->

>>

>>

>> According to Senator Whitehouse, the fossil-fuel industry has launched a massive and sophisticated campaign to mislead the American people about the science of global warming and its harmful effects on the people. He asserts that the fossil-fuel industry is doing what big tobacco did to deny the health dangers of smoking. Senator Whitehouse is proposing that the Department of Justice of the US government begin the inquiry to file a civil suit against the fossil-fuel industry, just like the Department of Justice did against the big tobacco companies more than 15 years ago.

>>

>>

>> I believe that human-induced climate change is already affecting our planet and our societies, and will do major harm to our future generations. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support Senator Whitehouse's proposal to begin such an investigation. I plan to write to Senator Whitehouse reiterating a strong agreement among the scientific community that climate change is real, it is happening now, it is human-induced, and that we support his proposal.

>>

>>

>> I am writing to you to ask you if you are able and willing to join me in sending a letter of support to Senator Whitehouse. Thank you for your consideration.

>>

>>

>> Regards,

>> Shukla

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> President, Institute of Global Environment & Society

>>

>> University Professor, George Mason University

>

**From:** Shukla  
**To:** Edward W Maibach  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
**Date:** Saturday, July 25, 2015 9:39:02 AM

---

Fantastic Ed. Please ask whoever you consider appropriate. Just cc me.  
I am also contacting some attorneys.

I am so excited to move forward.  
BTW, my student assistant Colin Nackerman who has worked with your group is available to help us.  
He is a dedicated activist.

Looking forward to receiving a draft of the group letter.

Regards,  
Shukla

University Professor, George Mason University  
President, Institute of Global Environment & Society  
Research Hall, Room 105  
George Mason University, MSN: 2B3  
4400 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA

Tel: 703-993-5700  
E-mail: shukla@iges.org  
http://www.iges.org/

On Jul 25, 2015, at 7:27 AM, Edward W Maibach <[emaibach@gmu.edu](mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu)> wrote:

Hi Shukla,  
I will draft a letter this weekend.  
My inclination is to write a group letter. We can encourage other climate scientists -- in as many states and Congressional districts as possible -- to co-sign the letter. This will make it very easy for other scientists to participate. The letter would be addressed to the President and the Attorney General -- given that they are the "deciders" on this decision -- and we would cc the Senators and Representatives of every co-signer.  
If we can find one co-signer in every one of the nation's 435 Congressional districts, we will end up sending the letter to every member of Congress -- which would be spectacular. The letter will get lots of media attention.  
We might be wise to ask one of the large science-based environmental advocacy to help us with this project. Union of Concerned Scientists would be a natural. I have excellent connections there. Environmental Defense would be good too, given that Eric Pooley is their director of communication, and he wrote a book about the dirty tricks of the fossil fuel industry that we can cite in the letter.

Would you object to my asking for their help?  
Back to you soon with a draft letter.  
All the best,  
Ed  
Sent from my iGlasses

On Jul 24, 2015, at 3:04 PM, J Shukla <[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)> wrote:

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your very helpful email. Your email has given me an idea; not only can we write letters to our leaders, I will contact about 100 climate scientists that I personally know, covering most of the states, and urge them to write to their own representatives.

As I had mentioned to you before, this is all new stuff for me. I have never been formally engaged in any political debate, and therefore I completely agree with you that we have to choose our words carefully. One thing we don't have to hesitate in writing is that the evidence of human induced climate change is overwhelming. You are of course a great communicator, and it will be a big help to me if you gave me a draft of what you might write to your own Congressman/Senator on this matter. I will use your draft to prepare a more general letter, which I intend to send to at least 1 or 2 climate scientists in each of the 50 states of the US.

Will appreciate any help you can provide.

Regards,

Shukla

On Jul 22, 2015, at 3:57 PM, Edward W Maibach  
<[emaibach@gmu.edu](mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu)> wrote:

Hi Shukla,

I had breakfast with David Michaels today. He is currently the Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (in the US Department of Labor), and a former environmental health colleague of mine at George Washington University. He is an expert in the

case against the tobacco industry.

His feels the odds of the DOJ pursuing this case against industry are slim to none, because there are no easily quantifiable (health care) costs that the government can seek reimbursement for.

That said, I have no objection to our sending a letter to the President, our Maryland Senators and members of Congress (mine is John Delaney), with a cc to Senator Whitehouse, asking them to support Senator Whitehouse's call for a RICO investigaton.

If we do this, we should choose our words carefully, because they could wind up on page 1 of the Washington Post. In fact, if we do this, I will want to run our draft past some very thoughtful advisers.

All the best,

Ed

Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD

University Professor, Department of Communication

Director, Center for Climate Change Communication

George Mason University, MS 6A8

Fairfax, VA 22030

[www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

---

From: J Shukla <[shukla@cola.iges.org](mailto:shukla@cola.iges.org)>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:44 AM

To: Edward W Maibach

Cc: J Shukla

Subject: Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

Dear Ed,

As always, excellent suggestions. I live in Maryland.

Please let me know what Bill Novelli suggests.

I am a novice on such matters.

In the past I had taken the view that perhaps I can be more effective as an educator if I were not engaged in political debates/actions.

I have changed my mind (with regrets as to why I waited so long!),and I have decided to get fully engaged in this process, not just the climate change issues but even the larger

issues of inequality and social justice.

I count on your advice.

Regards,

Shukla

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

From: "Edward W Maibach" <[emaibach@gmu.edu](mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu)>

To: "J Shukla" <[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:35:38 AM

Subject: Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

Hi Shukla,

I would be happy to do so, but our letter might have more impact if we targeted our Senators and members of Congress, and cc'ed Whitehouse. Are you a Virginian,

or a Marylander?

Or, better yet, we could consult my friend and mentor Bill Novelli -- who was central in the tobacco suit. He could give us counsel on how to be most effective.

All the best,

Ed

Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD  
University Professor, Department of Communication  
Director, Center for Climate Change Communication  
George Mason University, MS 6A8  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
[www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

From: J Shukla <[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)>

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 5:13 PM

To: Edward W Maibach

Subject: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

Dear Ed,

Are you, like me, puzzled as to why in spite of such overwhelming scientific evidence showing the influence of human activities on the Earth's climate during the past 50-100 years, a significant fraction of the US society remains skeptical? Please see the attached Op-Ed in the Washington Post, and text of a speech Senator Sheldon Whitehouse made on the floor of the US Senate on May 6, 2015.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-fossil-fuel-industrys-campaign-to-mislead-the-american-people/2015/05/29/04a2c448-0574-11e5-8bda-c7b4e9a8f7ac\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-fossil-fuel-industrys-campaign-to-mislead-the-american-people/2015/05/29/04a2c448-0574-11e5-8bda-c7b4e9a8f7ac_story.html)

<http://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/speeches/time-to-wake-up-climate-denial-recalls-tobacco-racketeering->

According to Senator Whitehouse, the fossil-fuel industry has launched a massive and sophisticated campaign to mislead the American people about the science of global warming and its harmful effects on the people. He asserts that the fossil-fuel industry is doing what big tobacco did to deny the health dangers of smoking. Senator Whitehouse is proposing that the Department of Justice of the US government begin the inquiry to file a civil suit against the fossil-fuel industry, just like the Department of Justice did against the big tobacco companies more than 15 years ago.

I believe that human-induced climate change is already affecting our planet and our societies, and will do major harm to our future generations. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support Senator Whitehouse's proposal to begin such an investigation. I plan to write to Senator Whitehouse reiterating a strong agreement among the scientific community that climate change is real, it is happening now, it is human-induced, and that we support his proposal.

I am writing to you to ask you if you are able and willing to join me in sending a letter of support to Senator Whitehouse. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Shukla

President, Institute of Global Environment & Society

University Professor, George Mason University

**From:** I Shukla  
**To:** Edward W Maibach  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2015 6:05:07 AM

---

Dear Ed,

This is a great letter. References to the articles and books adds intellectual weight to the letter. Some of my fellow climate scientists had suggested earlier that as climate scientists, we should should say something about the overwhelming scientific evidence of human caused climate change. They would also like to see a draft.

After I go to GMU today, I will make some minor revisions to your letter and share it with GMU scientists.

Please go ahead and contact UCS and EDF. Today I also plan to contact the legal assistant of Senator Whitehouse.

Regards,  
Shukla

On Jul 25, 2015, at 10:12 AM, Edward W Maibach <[emaibach@gmu.edu](mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu)> wrote:

Here is my draft. I will await your reply before contacting UCS and EDF.

Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD  
University Professor, Department of Communication  
Director, Center for Climate Change Communication  
George Mason University, MS 6A8  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
[www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

---

**From:** Shukla <[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 25, 2015 9:38 AM  
**To:** Edward W Maibach  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

Fantastic Ed. Please ask whoever you consider appropriate. Just cc me.  
I am also contacting some attorneys.

I am so excited to move forward.

BTW, my student assistant Colin Nackerman who has worked with your group is available to help us.

He is a dedicated activist.

Looking forward to receiving a draft of the

**From:** [Aaron Huertas](#)  
**To:** [Edward W. Majbach](#)  
**Subject:** Automatic reply: Senator Whitehouse's call for a RICO investigation of the fossil fuel industry  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2015 8:34:26 AM

---

I'm out of the office until Monday, August 3. If you're trying to reach someone on our communications team, please call our main line at 202-331-5420. You can also see contact info for my colleagues on the right side of this page: <http://www.ucsusa.org/press/2015#.VahdOvIViko>

Thanks,  
Aaron Huertas

**From:** [Nancy Cole](#)  
**To:** [Edward W Maibach](#)  
**Cc:** [Aaron Huertas](#); [Alden Meyer](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Senator Whitehouse's call for a RICO investigation of the fossil fuel industry  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2015 10:48:40 AM

---

Ed, great to hear from you, and thanks for sharing this intriguing idea.

As you may know, we have entered the "fossil energy company accountability" arena ourselves and recently released a compilation report detailing some of the most egregious examples of corporate deception on this issue. < [www.ucsusa.org/stopdeception](http://www.ucsusa.org/stopdeception) >

The sign-on letter is an interesting idea. Let me discuss with a couple of my colleagues here and get back to you shortly.

Hope you are well!

Nancy

Nancy S. Cole  
Director of Campaigns  
Climate and Energy Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
2 Brattle Square  
Cambridge, MA 02138-3780  
617.301.8034 (phone)  
617.864.9405 (fax)  
[ncole@ucsusa.org](mailto:ncole@ucsusa.org)

The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planet's most pressing problems. Joining with citizens across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future.

[www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org) | Take action with our [citizen network](#) or [expert network](#). | [Support our work](#). | Join the conversation on our [blog](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**From:** Edward W Maibach [<mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2015 10:36 AM  
**To:** Nancy Cole  
**Cc:** Aaron Huertas; Alden Meyer  
**Subject:** Fw: Senator Whitehouse's call for a RICO investigation of the fossil fuel industry

Hi Alden and Nancy,

Jagdish Shukla -- Mason's most senior climate scientist -- and I are planning on sending a letter to the POTUS and AG (with a cc to our members of Congress) to encourage them to act on Senator Whitehouse's proposal. We can easily get a couple of dozen additional climate scientists to co-sign (with a cc to all of their members of Congress too).

With a bit of extra work -- and this is why I am writing you -- perhaps we could get at least one climate scientist from all 435 congressional districts to co-sign the letter, which would allow us to cc every member of Congress (and would become a big media story).

Can UCS help us with this?

A draft of the letter is attached (although Shukla is going to make a few small edits this morning).

All the best,

Ed

Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD  
University Professor, Department of Communication  
Director, Center for Climate Change Communication  
George Mason University, MS 6A8  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
[www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

**From:** Alex Bozmoski  
**To:** Edward W Maibach  
**Subject:** Re: editorial assistance needed  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2015 4:48:14 PM

---

Ed, I'd delete the civilization claim...civilization didn't thrive "due to" stability. Maybe it wasn't prevented by instability. But that's different. Don't turn climate into God.

Other than that, it's just an impossible topic to not scream hard-core left. You're talking about prosecuting conservatives. At the AEI event, even R Street was making a big (and public) fuss about how ridiculous it is for Whitehouse to ask for cooperation while he's threatening RICO.

Sorry to not be sunnier :-)

alex

On Wed, Jul 29, 2015 at 2:25 PM, Edward W Maibach <[emaibach@gmu.edu](mailto:emaibach@gmu.edu)> wrote:

Hi Alex,

Please review the attached letter. I'm hoping you will highlight any language that screams "liberal drivel" and suggest ways of incorporating language that resonate with conservative values, such as accountability.

Thanks,

Ed

Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD  
University Professor, Department of Communication  
Director, Center for Climate Change Communication  
George Mason University, MS 6A8  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
[www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

**From:** Cane Mark  
**To:** J Shukla  
**Cc:** Edward W Maibach; Paul A Dirmeyer; Professor Barry Klinger; Andrew Light; Paul S Schopf; David M. Straus; Edward Sarachik; Mike Wallace; Robock Alan; Kalnay Eugenia; Dr. Bill Lau; Dr. Kevin Trenberth; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Biasutti Michela; Goddard Lisa; Dr. Alan Betts  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President and Attorney General  
**Date:** Thursday, September 03, 2015 12:10:38 PM  
**Attachments:** Final\_Version Letter to President & AG.docx  
ATT00001.htm

---

Dear Shukla,

You have my endorsement of this letter and any other version involving further wordsmithing. I agree with most of Kevin's suggestions. I have attached an edited version that cuts from the first paragraph a good bit of what Obama et al already know. I also put in greater acknowledgement of what the Administration is already doing. You can take this or leave these changes, but they are busy people and have heard the message and get it. The RICO part is the new thing.

I agree with Kevin to send it to Obama, Lynch, Holdren, and cc Whitehouse.

Thanks for doing this,  
Mark

## Letter to President Obama and Attorney General Lynch

September 1, 2015

Dear President Obama and Attorney General Lynch,

~~Based As you know, on evidence,~~ an overwhelming majority of climate scientists are convinced about the potentially serious adverse effects of human-induced climate change on our environment and society. We admire and applaud your efforts to regulate emissions and the other steps you have taken and are taking. ~~However~~ Nonetheless, as climate scientists we are exceedingly concerned that America's response to climate change – indeed, the world's response to climate change – is ~~currently~~ insufficient to prevent serious and potentially lasting harm to human health and well-being, and to the resources on which all people depend – including agriculture, livestock, biodiversity, safe water supplies, clean air, forests, and eco-systems. These and other serious risks, including increasing extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and increasing ocean acidity – and potential response strategies – are detailed in the Third National Climate Assessment (2014), *Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. ~~The stability of the Earth's climate over the past ten thousand years contributed to the growth of agriculture and therefore, a thriving human civilization. We are now at high risk of seriously destabilizing the Earth's climate – largely as a result of our continued reliance on fossil fuels – the consequences of which would be grave for hundreds or thousands of years to come. We urge you to use all tools available to you, including confronting those who deliberately mislead and foster disinformation campaigns about climate change to the public so that Americans and all other people around the world, especially the world's poorest people, are not needlessly and irreparably harmed for many generations to come. America's leadership is essential.~~

We appreciate that you are making aggressive and imaginative use of the limited tools available to you in the face of a recalcitrant Congress. One ~~such~~ additional tool – recently proposed by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse – is a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) investigation of corporations and other organizations that have knowingly deceived the American people about the risks of climate change, as a means to forestall America's response to climate change. ~~We are familiar with the~~ The actions of these organizations – which have been extensively ~~chronicled~~ documented in peer-reviewed academic research (Brulle, 2013) and in several recent books including: Doubt is their Product (Michaels, 2008), Climate Cover-Up (Hoggan & Littlemore, 2009), Merchants of Doubt (Oreskes & Conway, 2010), The Climate War (Pooley, 2010), and in The Climate Deception Dossiers (Union of Concerned Scientists, 2015). We strongly endorse Senator Whitehouse's call for a RICO investigation.

The methods of these organizations are quite similar to those used earlier by the tobacco industry. A RICO investigation (1999 to 2006) played an important role in stopping the tobacco industry from continuing to deceive the American people about the dangers of smoking. If corporations in the fossil fuel industry and their supporters are guilty of the misdeeds that have been documented in books and journal articles, it is imperative that these misdeeds be stopped as soon as possible so that America – and the world – can get on with the critically important business of finding effective ways to restabilize the Earth's climate, before even more lasting damage is done.

Sincerely,

Jagadish Shukla, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

**Letter to President Obama and Attorney General Lynch**

Edward Maibach, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Paul Dirmeyer, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

*(continued on page 2)*

Barry Klinger, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Andrew Light, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Paul Schopf, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

David Straus, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Edward Sarachik, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Michael Wallace, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Alan Robock, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Eugenia Kalnay, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

William Lau, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Kevin Trenberth, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO

T.N. Krishnamurti, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Vasu Misra, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Robert Dickinson, University of Austin, Austin, TX

Michela Biasutti, Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY

Mark Cane, Columbia University, New York, NY

Lisa Goddard, Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY

Alan Betts, Atmospheric Research, Pittsford, VT

**From:** Edward Sarachik  
**To:** J Shukla  
**Cc:** Edward W. Maibach; Paul A. Dirmeyer; Professor Barry Klinger; Andrew Light; Paul S. Schoof; David M. Straus; Mike Wallace; Alan Robock; Professor Eugenia Kalnay; Dr. Bill Lau; Dr. Kevin Trenberth; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Dr. Michela Biasutti; Dr. Mark Cane; Dr. Lisa Goddard; Dr. Alan Betts  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President and Attorney General  
**Date:** Thursday, September 03, 2015 2:40:15 PM

---

Dear Shukla: I am happy to be a co-signer in whatever form the letter will eventually take. Question: Does the RICO law only apply to organizations or are individuals also liable? Cheers..ed

On Thu, 3 Sep 2015, J Shukla wrote:

> Dear Friends,  
>  
> Thank you for agreeing to be a co-signer of the attached letter to the President and Attorney General. Please find attached a slightly revised version of the letter which will be sent as soon as I have received your final concurrence via email. I also plan to send a separate letter to Senator Whitehouse informing him of our letter to the President and Attorney General.  
>  
> It is not necessary for you to send me a signed letter, please just send me an email confirming your agreement.  
Thank you.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Shukla  
>  
>

---

Edward S. Sarachik  
CIG/UW  
3737 Brooklyn Ave.  
Box 355674  
Seattle, WA 98195-5674  
Phone 206-285-5221

**From:** J Shukla  
**To:** [John P. Holdren@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:John_P_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov); [Patricia M. McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Patricia_M_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov)  
**Cc:** [Edward W. Maibach](#); [Paul A. Dirmeyer](#); [Professor Barry Klinger](#); [Paul S. Schopf](#); [David M. Straus](#); [Edward Sarachik](#); [Mike Wallace](#); [Alan Robock](#); [Professor Eugenia Kalnay](#); [Dr. Ben Kirtman](#); [Dr. Bill Lau](#); [Dr. Kevin Trenberth](#); [Professor T.N. Krishnamurti](#); [Dr. Vasubandhu Misra](#); [Dr. Robert Dickinson](#); [Dr. Michela Biasutti](#); [Dr. Mark Cane](#); [Dr. Lisa Goddard](#); [Dr. Alan Betts](#); [Sheldon Whitehouse](#); [Joseph Majkut](#); [Lara Quint](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to President, AG, and OSTP Director  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2015 11:18:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Pres. AG. Holdren\\_Final.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

---

Dear Dr. Holdren,

It has been a long time since I have had email correspondence with you. I do hope this email will reach your office.

Please find enclosed a letter to the President, the Attorney General, and you, reiterating the position of an overwhelming majority of climate scientists about the potentially serious adverse effects of human-induced climate change. The letter also supports Senator Whitehouse's proposal that the Department of Justice begin a RICO investigation of the fossil-fuel industry, who according to Senator Whitehouse, have knowingly deceived the American people about the risks of climate change. The letter has been endorsed by a number of distinguished scientists whose names and affiliations are provided at the end of the letter.

We will be grateful if you can please bring this letter to the attention of the President. Thank you.

Regards,  
J. Shukla

University Professor, George Mason University  
President, Institute of Global Environment & Society  
Research Hall, Room 105  
George Mason University, MSN: 2B3  
[4400 University Drive](#)  
[Fairfax, VA 22030 USA](#)

Tel: [703-993-5700](tel:703-993-5700)  
E-mail: [shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)  
<http://www.iges.org/>

**Letter to President Obama, Attorney General Lynch, and OSTP Director Holdren**

September 1, 2015

Dear President Obama, Attorney General Lynch, and OSTP Director Holdren,

As you know, an overwhelming majority of climate scientists are convinced about the potentially serious adverse effects of human-induced climate change on human health, agriculture, and biodiversity. We applaud your efforts to regulate emissions and the other steps you are taking. Nonetheless, as climate scientists we are exceedingly concerned that America's response to climate change – indeed, the world's response to climate change – is insufficient. The risks posed by climate change, including increasing extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and increasing ocean acidity – and potential strategies for addressing them – are detailed in the Third National Climate Assessment (2014), *Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. The stability of the Earth's climate over the past ten thousand years contributed to the growth of agriculture and therefore, a thriving human civilization. We are now at high risk of seriously destabilizing the Earth's climate and irreparably harming people around the world, especially the world's poorest people.

We appreciate that you are making aggressive and imaginative use of the limited tools available to you in the face of a recalcitrant Congress. One additional tool – recently proposed by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse – is a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) investigation of corporations and other organizations that have knowingly deceived the American people about the risks of climate change, as a means to forestall America's response to climate change. The actions of these organizations have been extensively documented in peer-reviewed academic research (Brulle, 2013) and in recent books including: *Doubt is their Product* (Michaels, 2008), *Climate Cover-Up* (Hoggan & Littlemore, 2009), *Merchants of Doubt* (Oreskes & Conway, 2010), *The Climate War* (Pooley, 2010), and in *The Climate Deception Dossiers* (Union of Concerned Scientists, 2015). We strongly endorse Senator Whitehouse's call for a RICO investigation.

The methods of these organizations are quite similar to those used earlier by the tobacco industry. A RICO investigation (1999 to 2006) played an important role in stopping the tobacco industry from continuing to deceive the American people about the dangers of smoking. If corporations in the fossil fuel industry and their supporters are guilty of the misdeeds that have been documented in books and journal articles, it is imperative that these misdeeds be stopped as soon as possible so that America and the world can get on with the critically important business of finding effective ways to restabilize the Earth's climate, before even more lasting damage is done.

Sincerely,

Jagadish Shukla, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Edward Maibach, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Paul Dirmeyer, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Barry Klinger, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Paul Schopf, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

*(continued on page 2)*

**Letter to President Obama, Attorney General Lynch, and OSTP Director Holdren**

David Straus, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA  
Edward Sarachik, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Michael Wallace, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Alan Robock, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Eugenia Kalnay, University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
William Lau, University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
Kevin Trenberth, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO  
T.N. Krishnamurti, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL  
Vasu Misra, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL  
Ben Kirtman, University of Miami, Miami, FL  
Robert Dickinson, University of Texas, Austin, TX  
Michela Biasutti, Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY  
Mark Cane, Columbia University, New York, NY  
Lisa Goddard, Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY  
Alan Betts, Atmospheric Research, Pittsford, VT

**From:** Sheldon Whitehouse  
**To:** Kevin Trenberth; Edward W Maibach; Cane Mark; J Shukla  
**Cc:** John\_P.\_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov; Patricia\_M.\_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov; Paul A Dirmeyer; Professor Barry Klinger; Paul S Schopf; David M. Straus; Edward Sarachik; Mike Wallace; Robock Alan; Kalnay Eugenia; Kirtman Ben; Dr. Bill Lau; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Biasutti Michela; Goddard Lisa; Dr. Alan Betts; Joseph Majkut; Lara Quint  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President, AG, and OSTP Director  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 5:55:22 PM

---

Comes with the territory, I'm afraid. Sorry, though. The outrage and aggrievement are just irresistible to some. So we're all clear: the tobacco case was a CIVIL RICO case, not criminal, so jailing and imprisoning have nothing to do with it. Just a forum where you can't lie and can be cross-examined in front of a neutral judge. And the govt won fair and square and soundly, just as I believe they would here.

**From:** Kevin Trenberth  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 5:20 PM  
**To:** Edward W Maibach; Cane Mark; J Shukla  
**Cc:** John\_P.\_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov; Patricia\_M.\_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov; Paul A Dirmeyer; Professor Barry Klinger; Paul S Schopf; David M. Straus; Edward Sarachik; Mike Wallace; Robock Alan; Kalnay Eugenia; Kirtman Ben; Dr. Bill Lau; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Biasutti Michela; Goddard Lisa; Dr. Alan Betts; Sheldon Whitehouse; Joseph Majkut; Lara Quint  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President, AG, and OSTP Director

That is the least of it:  
 Oh, it's particularly bad this time because it's been picked up by  
 Twitchy: <http://twitchy.com/2015/09/17/alarms-enraged-20-climate-scientists-ask-obama-to-use-the-rico-act-to-go-after-global-warming-skeptics/>

I am getting hate e-mails and phone calls.  
 Kevin

On 9/17/15 3:19 PM, Edward W Maibach wrote:

From Marc Morano at Climate Depot:

<http://www.climatedepot.com/2015/09/17/twenty-climate-scientists-including-top-un-scientist-call-for-rico-investigation-of-climate-skeptics-in-a-letter-to-obama-argue-skeptics-guilty-of-disinformation-like-tobacco-companies/>

Debate no more! Jailed for  
 scientific dissent?! Twenty  
 climate scientists, including  
 Top UN scientist, call for RICO  
 investigation of climate

## skeptics in letter to Obama | Climate Depot

Top UN scientist Dr. Kevin Trenberth and 19 other scientists have become so tired of debating global warming that they are now apparently seeking to jail those who disagree with them. One of the sc...

[Read more...](#)

Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD  
University Professor, Department of Communication  
Director, Center for Climate Change Communication  
George Mason University, MS 6A8  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
[www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

---

**From:** Kevin Trenberth <[trenbert@ucar.edu](mailto:trenbert@ucar.edu)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:45 AM  
**To:** Cane Mark; J Shukla  
**Cc:** [John P. Holdren@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:John_P_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov); [Patricia M. McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Patricia_M_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov); Edward W Maibach; Paul A Dirmeyer; Professor Barry Klinger; Paul S Schopf; David M. Straus; Edward Sarachik; Mike Wallace; Robock Alan; Kalnay Eugenia; Kirtman Ben; Dr. Bill Lau; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Biasutti Michela; Goddard Lisa; Dr. Alan Betts; Sheldon Whitehouse; Joseph Majkut; Lara Quint  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President, AG, and OSTP Director

From Climate Nexus:

**Documenting Dangers, Doing Nothing:** Exxon supported scientists conducted pioneering research into fossil fuels' role in climate change back in the 1970s. But when scientists warned management that addressing climate issues through policy change could affect their profitability, Exxon began a decades-long campaign to discredit the research. The second in a multi-part series from InsideClimate News reveals how an early culture of elite scientific exploration was abandoned by a corporate agenda that sought to hide the truth and cover up the potentially catastrophic implications of business-as-usual. (**News:** [InsideClimate News](#), [The Hill](#), [Newsweek](#), [PBS](#), [Fortune](#)) **Commentary:** [New York Times](#), [Andrew Revkin column](#), [Inverse](#), [Jacqueline Ronson column](#), [Grist](#), [Katie Herzog column](#), [Wired](#), [Sarah Zhang column](#))

On 9/17/15 9:38 AM, Cane Mark wrote:

In case you missed this initial article on Exxon:

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/15092015/frontline-video>

On Sep 14, 2015, at 11:18 AM, J Shukla  
<[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)> wrote:

Dear Dr. Holdren,

It has been a long time since I have had email correspondence with you. I do hope this email will reach your office.

Please find enclosed a letter to the President, the Attorney General, and you, reiterating the position of an overwhelming majority of climate scientists about the potentially serious adverse effects of human-induced climate change. The letter also supports Senator Whitehouse's proposal that the Department of Justice begin a RICO investigation of the fossil-fuel industry, who according to Senator Whitehouse, have knowingly deceived the American people about the risks of climate change. The letter has been endorsed by a number of distinguished scientists whose names and affiliations are provided at the end of the letter. We will be grateful if you can please bring this letter to the attention of the President. Thank you.

Regards,  
J. Shukla

University Professor, George Mason University  
President, Institute of Global Environment & Society  
Research Hall, Room 105  
George Mason University, MSN: 2B3  
4400 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA

Tel: 703-993-5700

E-mail: [shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)  
<http://www.iges.org/>

<Letter to Pres, AG, Holdren\_Final.docx>

On Sep 9, 2015, at 4:11 PM, J Shukla  
<[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)> wrote:

Dear Friends,

Please find enclosed a copy of the final  
letter. Thank you for your support.

Regards,  
Shukla

<Letter to Pres, AG, Holdren\_Final.docx>

Mark A. Cane  
G. Unger Vetlesen Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University  
61 Route 9W  
Palisades, NY 10964-8000

[mcane@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:mcane@ldeo.columbia.edu) Secretary: Virginia DiBlasi  
845 365 8344 (phone) 845 365 6667  
845 365 8736 (fax) [virginia@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:virginia@ldeo.columbia.edu)  
<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/research/ocean-climate-physics>

Department of Earth and Environmental Science <http://eesc.columbia.edu/>  
Department of Applied Physics and Applied Math  
Founder, Master of Arts Program in Climate and Society:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/climatesociety/>

--  
Kevin E Trenberth  
497 1318

ph 303

Distinguished Senior Scientist  
497 1333  
Climate Analysis Section  
trenbert@ucar.edu  
National Center for Atmospheric Research  
PO Box 3000  
Boulder, CO 80307, USA

fax 303  
email

--  
Kevin E Trenberth  
Distinguished Senior Scientist  
Climate Analysis Section  
National Center for Atmospheric Research  
PO Box 3000  
Boulder, CO 80307, USA

ph 303 497 1318  
fax 303 497 1333  
email trenbert@ucar.edu

**From:** JEFFREY  
**To:** Edward W Maibach  
**Subject:** Perpetrating a Massive Fraud  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 8:46:58 PM

---

Dear Mr. Maibach:

How does an individual possessing a BA in Social Psychology, Masters in Public Health and a Doctorate in Communication Research become a scientist? One that also secures a \$3 million research grant to assist weathercasters on how to explain climate change (formally promoted as extreme global warming before it was proved to be a hoax).

A scholar from the land of fruits and nuts majoring in worthless degrees and ending up in the DC area. I know the story---dealt with many like you especially in the DC area---I attended and completed a Georgetown grad program in the past. But very similar to those on the list who signed the September 1, 2015 letter to Barack Obama to promote the implementation of the RICO Act on those that do not support the fraud you espouse.

I see no science in your background--I checked the Communication Research curriculum at Stanford, I did not see anything relating to science---just items that appear to be of a journalistic bent. But in your defense the Science Editor from the New York Times is a history major. Go figure.

With my background in economics/finance, political science, accounting and forensics I might set up my own organization---formulate my own hypothesis and theories based on the evidence---- using my own wealth and provide the facts regarding *natural climate change*. And maybe I could be included in the Most Wanted List from ersatz scientists whining to a community organizer---of which none has ever held a real job in their lives.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hagen  
Scottsdale, AZ

**From:** Egnor, Michael  
**To:** Edward W Maibach  
**Date:** Saturday, September 19, 2015 9:21:42 AM

---

Dr. Maibach:

I see that you have signed a letter to President Obama demanding criminal prosecution of global warming skeptics.

Your letter is a demand for fascism, plain and simple. By advocating criminal prosecution and imprisonment of your scientific critics, you have violated basic principles of scientific ethics and you are demanding that the government deny academic freedom and constitutional free speech rights of scientists and American citizens.

I am a global warming skeptic, and I insist that any criminal prosecution of skeptics include me as well.

You are a disgrace to the scientific profession.

Michael Egnor, M.D.  
Professor of Neurological Surgery  
State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, New York

This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by e-mail and destroy all copies of the original.

**From:** Neil Wolfe  
**To:** Barry A Klinger; Amrita Shukla; Edward W Maibach; pdirmeyer@gmu.edu; Paul S Schopf  
**Subject:** Your recent letter to the POTUS and US Attorney General  
**Date:** Saturday, September 19, 2015 9:23:51 AM

---

I recently read your letter to the President and the US Attorney General encouraging that they use RICO laws to prosecute scientist that disagree with your viewpoints regarding global climate change. I cannot tell you how offensive I find it that one group of scientists would attempt to use anti-racketeering laws to silence other scientists who disagree with your assertions. My first impression is that only a group who concedes they do not have the concrete scientific evidence to refute the assertions of an opposing group would suggest the use of such Gestapo tactics against others in their field. Is that where you think 'science' should go? Are you so naive and consumed with your 'cause' that you fail to see the slippery slope this could send us down? You should be ashamed of yourselves as your calls for prosecution of opposing scientists are strongly reminiscent of the sort of book burning and fear tactics imposed by the German Nazis in the 1930s and 40s.

If you feel so compelled to call for RICO investigations you should first investigate the financial incentives behind the carbon exchange markets that Al Gore and his crew of frauds established in order to capitalize on their unproven assertions that global warming is indeed real and indeed man made- always follow the \$\$\$\$\$. And the money is exactly what the massive fraud that Gore attempted to perpetrate was always about. It's been proven in several instances that many so called 'scientists' who supported the notion that human activity, particularly that related to fossil fuels, was the primary cause of climate change here n Earth had submitted patently falsified data in order to support their assertions. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2011/11/23/climategate-2-0-new-e-mails-rock-the-global-warming-debate/> . It would appear as if in 2010 Gore and company's carbon exchange scheme collapsed as any fraudulent scheme eventually will. I guess the majority of humanity is wrong for not buying into this one?

This article clearly spells out that Gore and friends true motivation was FINANCIAL- they stood to get rich on cap and trade markets- fortunately their scam didn't pan out. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/11/03/blood-and-gore-making-a-killing-on-anti-carbon-investment-hype/>

I'm very curious to know if any of you have any personal investments in any carbon tax/cap and trade related firms, exchanges, or hedge funds? I would greatly appreciate a specific reply from each of you regarding any financial stake you may have and if any investments you have made personally would be enhanced/improved if the whole idea of man made global warming were to become a widely accepted belief- which of course it currently is not. I eagerly await a reply from each of you regarding this issue and would also appreciate you CCing everyone in the thread as to your answer to my inquiry. Understand that under the circumstances if you refuse to disclose your potential financial gains regarding the whole global warming/climate change issue a reasonable person would be led to believe that you indeed do stand to gain financially from man made global warming/climate change become a widely accepted belief. I would also be curious to know if any of you have ever been even offered the opportunity to purchase shares or options to purchase shares in any carbon exchange markets, hedge funds, or companies that stand to benefit from a carbon tax/cap and trade scenario.

One other point I'd like to make- Why several years ago did the vilifying term 'global warming denier' seem to be morphed, by you and your fellow believers, into 'climate change deniers' instead? Was this an admission that the data indeed did not support the assertion that the planet was warming? I have followed this issue for years and with the evidence I had seen was never convinced that global warming was occurring nor that if it was indeed occurring that it was due to human created CO2 emissions. It would have been fair and accurate to refer to a person with my belief as a 'global warming denier'- that I freely accept however there then seemed to be a well orchestrated effort by your side of the issue to then take this very same group of folks like me that did not support your global warming assertions and then label us 'climate change deniers'. How absurd and frankly patently dishonest to characterize people like me who refused to buy into your politically and financially motivated scheme of global warming as people that deny the climate of the Earth is ever changing. Of course the climate is changing- as it always has and always will for as long as it exists. When your movement started using this demeaning and inaccurate phrase to describe people such as myself it became painfully clear that your movement at it's core was dishonest as well as downright nasty and vindictive. For the record- I DO NOT DENY THAT THE CLIMATE IS

EVER CHANGING NOR HAVE I EVER NOR DO I SUSPECT I EVER WILL- I think I speak for millions of others you have so wrongly labeled as 'climate change deniers'.

Correct me if I'm wrong but I also seem to recall many of your ilk, years ago, asserting that by this time, the year 2015 Manhattan and other waterfront cities would start experiencing massive flooding due to glaciers melting? Last I checked we haven't seen any such thing occur or perhaps I have overlooked the mass flooding of a major metropolis due to glacier melting? The mass of Glaciers on the planet as of late appear to be GROWING not SHRINKING. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2171434/Satellite-study-Asian-mountains-glaciers-NOT-melting-actually-gaining-new-ice.html> <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/22/nasa-announces-new-record-growth-of-antarctic-sea-ice-extent/> I will be the first to acknowledge that our planet is ever changing including glacier melting and formation- against this has ebbed and flowed since the formation of our climate and will continue to do so as long as Earth's climate exists (assuming new technologies aren't implemented that would stabilize what would otherwise be naturally occurring change).

I would also like to make it clear that I stand in strong opposition to the continued extensive use of fossil fuels to meet human energy needs. Alternative energy technologies (some of which still remain suppressed) do indeed exist that could make the use of fossil fuels virtually obsolete overnight. Of course those business interests that have made \$trillions\$ in profits from fossil fuel usage have done everything in their power to keep petroleum preeminent on our planet. These business interests are the true enemies of humanity and the planet NOT those of us who refuse to buy into data that has been proven to be fraudulent as well as politically and financially motivated. If you truly care about the planet and the well being of all its creatures I suggest you focus your efforts on uncovering big oil's extensive efforts to suppress alternative energies and demand that your government, who is in possession of such technologies, disclose them immediately and allocate whatever resources are required to disseminate this technology for human use as rapidly and efficiently as possible. Or you can instead choose to spend your time attempting to use Gestapo like tactics to those who disagree with your assertions- do you realize how UnAmerican and Unscientific your call for RICO investigations really is?

Climate change is not unique to Earth- as a matter of fact all of the other planets (as well as their satellites) within our solar system are also undergoing changes- many far more dramatic than one could assert are occurring here on Earth. Well what is it that all of the planets in our solar system have in common? It's our sun of course. There is where you will find the answers that will explain climate changes here on Earth as well as those occurring on the other heavenly bodies within our solar system. You will also find that increased solar activities such as CMEs and X flares are having a significant impact on increased seismic activity on our planet. Real scientists seek real answers using REAL SCIENCE. I have no idea as to the personal integrity of any of you as I have never had the pleasure (or possibly displeasure) of meeting any of you. I will extend to you the benefit of the doubt that ignorance and subjectivity as opposed to dishonesty is the driving force behind your positions. I understand that there has been immense pressure exerted upon your industry that can easily ruin one's career if they show unwillingness to play ball. If you research NASA observations, data, imagery over the past decade or so you will see for yourselves the undeniable truth that significant climate change is occurring on other heavenly bodies throughout our solar system. It's really not at all difficult to see and once that fact is revealed I think only a fool would argue that the driving force behind any changes in Earth's climate is due to human activity. This of course does not change my position that fossil fuels need to be made obsolete and their widespread use has indeed been very harmful to our environment in many different ways.

Please do not expect NASA to openly endorse the reality that climate change is occurring throughout the solar system. If they were going to acknowledge that they would have done so already. Unfortunately NASA has been significantly corrupted and I believe more often suppresses the truth as opposed to bringing it forward. Fortunately it isn't so easy NASA to hide raw data and imagery (although they will attempt to engage in that from time to time as well). The clear evidence is there for all to see but one must be able to draw their own conclusion because NASA has unfortunately proven itself to be like many other government entities- deceptive, agenda driven and ultimately controlled by unsavory individuals who feel zero obligation to disclose scientific truths to the masses.

I eagerly await your responses- particularly regarding any personal financial stake that any of you may have (or once had) in the carbon exchange scheme perpetrated by Al Gore and company.

Regards,

000095

Neil Wolfe, Alexandria Virginia.

**From:** Edward Sarachik  
**To:** J Shukla  
**Cc:** Edward W. Maibach; Paul A. Dirmeyer; Professor Barry Klinger; Andrew Light; Paul S. Schopf; David M. Straus; Mike Wallace; Alan Robock; Professor Eugenia Kalnay; Dr. Bill Lau; Dr. Kevin Trenberth; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Dr. Michela Biasutti; Dr. Mark Cane; Dr. Lisa Goddard; Dr. Alan Betts  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President and Attorney General  
**Date:** Sunday, September 20, 2015 2:50:20 PM

---

Dear All: I've already received a copy of a letter to the President of my University:

To:

Ana Mari Cauce

Interim President

University of Washington

Dear Ms Cauce;

Are you aware that two of your professors; Edward Sarachik and Michael Wallace, have signed a letter addressed to the President and Attorney General of the United States, urging them to use criminal prosecution in order to oppress and silence scientists with whom these professors disagree?

The letter is attached. You can see that your employees are in fact signatories.

Is this accepted practice at your institution? Do you encourage or condone such methods in the field of scientific debate?

As a taxpayer, I would appreciate an answer - I suspect that federal funds go to these professors for their research - funds that are apparently being misused in order to further a political agenda and to engage in "lawfare" against any who disagree with their views.

This is a weapon aimed at the heart of our open society, and is a blow to freedom of inquiry and debate in science. Destroying the foundation of free scientific speech is a very high price to pay in order to service a dubious, hysterical end-of-the-world theory that is based almost entirely on computer models, and which is apparently falsified by measurement over the past several decades.

I would add also; this attempt to use government coercion to silence dissent implies strongly that these professors know they do not have a winning argument.

I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

I also received an e-mail decrying my persecution of climate deniers. When I pointed out that it was not about individuals but about organizations who know about climate change but are organizing efforts to cast doubt on it I got the following response;

Dr. Sarachik:

I already read your letter. RICO investigations can lead to prosecutions of individuals as well as corporations.

Do you advocate RICO investigations of the organizations associated with the Climategate scientists, who confessed

to scientific misconduct and numerous crimes in their emails? There are as many if not more books and peer-reviewed papers challenging the integrity of climate scientists as there are books and papers challenging the integrity of skeptics.

Do you advocate RICO investigation of all parties in the global warming debate, or only prosecution of your opponents?

If you included yourself, Michael Mann, Phil Jones, Keith Briffa, and Mike Hulme as targets of RICO, I might agree with you. Why, by the way, did Michael Mann insist on hiding his emails from the Virginia AG? Why did climate scientists agree to hide and even destroy data in the Climategate emails? Would you endorse the hiding of emails and data by skeptics as well?

Let's demand RICO investigation of all parties to the debate. Surely you would have no objection, being a disinterested man in search of justice and truth.

---

At this point I decided it is folly to respond to any of these people. I would advise everybody to be careful about responses unless they wish to risk lawsuits which would be pointless and time consuming. Cheers...ed

---

Edward S. Sarachik  
CIG/UW  
3737 Brooklyn Ave.  
Box 355674  
Seattle, WA 98195-5674  
Phone 206-285-5221

**From:** Majkut, Joseph (Whitehouse)  
**To:** Cane Mark; Barry Klinger  
**Cc:** Edward W Maibach; Kevin Trenberth; J Shukla; John\_P\_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov; Patricia\_M\_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov; Paul A Dirmeyer; Paul S Schoof; David M. Straus; Edward Sarachik; Mike Wallace; Robock Alan; Kalnay Eugenia; Kirtman Ben; Dr. Bill Lau; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Biasutti Michela; Goddard Lisa; Dr. Alan Betts  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to President, AG, and OSTP Director  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2015 11:50:29 AM

---

I agree that this is a useful clarification. Thanks for sending.

**From:** Cane Mark [mailto:mcane@ideo.columbia.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2015 12:37 PM  
**To:** Barry Klinger  
**Cc:** Edward W Maibach; Kevin Trenberth; J Shukla; John\_P\_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov; Patricia\_M\_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov; Paul A Dirmeyer; Paul S Schopf; David M. Straus; Edward Sarachik; Mike Wallace; Robock Alan; Kalnay Eugenia; Kirtman Ben; Dr. Bill Lau; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr. Robert Dickinson; Biasutti Michela; Goddard Lisa; Dr. Alan Betts; Sheldon Whitehouse; Majkut, Joseph (Whitehouse); Quint, Lara (Judiciary-Dem)  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President, AG, and OSTP Director

Thanks Barry. This is very well done.

I do have misgivings about invoking RICO, which may too easily lead to civil liberty abuses. At the same time, all this outrage from climate doubters would seem legitimate if they had expressed similar outrage when Mike Mann and others were being harassed.  
 best, mark

On Sep 19, 2015, at 1:07 PM, Barry Klinger <[klinger@cola.iges.org](mailto:klinger@cola.iges.org)> wrote:

Dear RICO Letter signers,

Never happy about other people defining and mischaracterizing my position, I put together a little postscript to the RICO letter. Feedback on what I wrote is welcome.

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~bklinger/rico.html>

-B A K

On 9/17/2015 5:19 PM, Edward W Maibach wrote:

From Marc Morano at Climate Depot:

<http://www.climatedepot.com/2015/09/17/twenty-climate-scientists-including-top-un-scientist-call-for-rico-investigation-of-climate-skeptics-in-a-letter-to-obama-argue-skeptics-guilty-of-disinformation-like-tobacco-companies/>

Debate no more!

\_\_\_\_\_ |  
Jailed for scientific  
dissent?! Twenty  
climate scientists,  
including Top UN  
scientist, call for  
RICO investigation  
of climate skeptics  
in letter to Obama |  
Climate Depot

Top UN scientist Dr. Kevin  
Trenberth and 19 other scientists  
have become so tired of debating  
global warming that they are now  
apparently seeking to jail those  
who disagree with them. One of  
the sc...

[Read more...](#)

Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD  
University Professor, Department of Communication  
Director, Center for Climate Change Communication  
George Mason University, MS 6A8  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
[www.climatechangecommunication.org](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org)

---

**From:** Kevin Trenberth <[trenbert@ucar.edu](mailto:trenbert@ucar.edu)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:45 AM  
**To:** Cane Mark; J Shukla  
**Cc:** [John\\_P\\_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:John_P_Holdren@ostp.eop.gov);  
[Patricia\\_M\\_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Patricia_M_McLaughlin@ostp.eop.gov); Edward W Maibach; Paul A  
Dirmeyer; Professor Barry Klinger; Paul S Schopf; David M. Straus;  
Edward Sarachik; Mike Wallace; Robock Alan; Kalnay Eugenia; Kirtman  
Ben; Dr. Bill Lau; Professor T.N. Krishnamurti; Dr. Vasubandhu Misra; Dr.  
Robert Dickinson; Biasutti Michela; Goddard Lisa; Dr. Alan Betts; Sheldon  
Whitehouse; Joseph Majkut; Lara Quint  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to President, AG, and OSTP Director

From Climate Nexus:

**Documenting Dangers, Doing Nothing:** Exxon supported scientists conducted pioneering research into fossil fuels' role in climate change back in the 1970s. But when scientists warned management that addressing climate issues through policy change could affect their profitability, Exxon began a decades-long campaign to discredit the research. The second in a multi-part series from InsideClimate News reveals how an early culture of elite scientific exploration was abandoned by a corporate agenda that sought to hide the truth and cover up the potentially catastrophic implications of business-as-usual. (News: [InsideClimate News](#), [The Hill](#), [Newsweek](#), [PBS](#), [Fortune](#)) **Commentary:** [New York Times](#), [Andrew Revkin column](#), [Inverse](#), [Jacqueline Ronson column](#), [Grist](#), [Katie Herzog column](#), [Wired](#), [Sarah Zhang column](#))

On 9/17/15 9:38 AM, Cane Mark wrote:

In case you missed this initial article on Exxon:

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/15092015/frontline-video>

On Sep 14, 2015, at 11:18 AM, J Shukla  
<[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)> wrote:

Dear Dr. Holdren,

It has been a long time since I have had email correspondence with you. I do hope this email will reach your office.

Please find enclosed a letter to the President, the Attorney General, and you, reiterating the position of an overwhelming majority of climate scientists about the potentially serious adverse effects of human-induced climate change. The letter also supports Senator Whitehouse's proposal that the Department of Justice begin a RICO investigation of the fossil-fuel industry, who according to Senator Whitehouse, have knowingly deceived the American people about the risks of climate change. The letter has been endorsed by a number of distinguished scientists whose names and affiliations are provided at the end of the letter.

We will be grateful if you can please bring this letter to the attention of the President. Thank you.

Regards,  
J. Shukla

University Professor, George Mason  
University  
President, Institute of Global Environment  
& Society  
Research Hall, Room 105  
George Mason University, MSN: 2B3  
4400 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA

Tel: 703-993-5700  
E-mail: shukla@iges.org  
http://www.iges.org/

<Letter to Pres, AG, Holdren\_Final.docx>

On Sep 9, 2015, at 4:11 PM, J  
Shukla <[shukla@iges.org](mailto:shukla@iges.org)>  
wrote:

Dear Friends,

Please find enclosed a copy of  
the final letter. Thank you for  
your support.

Regards,  
Shukla

<Letter to Pres, AG,  
Holdren\_Final.docx>

G. Unger Vetlesen Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University  
61 Route 9W  
Palisades, NY 10964-8000

[mcane@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:mcane@ldeo.columbia.edu) Secretary: Virginia DiBlasi  
845 365 8344 (phone) 845 365 8667  
845 365 8736 (fax) [virginia@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:virginia@ldeo.columbia.edu)  
<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/research/ocean-climate-physics>

Department of Earth and Environmental Science <http://eesc.columbia.edu/>  
Department of Applied Physics and Applied Math  
Founder, Master of Arts Program in Climate and Society:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/climatesociety/>

--  
Kevin E Trenberth ph 303 497  
1318  
Distinguished Senior Scientist fax 303 497  
1333  
Climate Analysis Section email  
[trenbert@ucar.edu](mailto:trenbert@ucar.edu)  
National Center for Atmospheric Research  
PO Box 3000  
Boulder, CO 80307, USA

-----  
Barry Klinger, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator  
-----  
Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences, and  
Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA),  
George Mason University  
-----  
4400 University Drive, MS 2B3, Fairfax, VA 22030  
116 Research Hall, 703-993-9227, [bklinger@gmu.edu](mailto:bklinger@gmu.edu)  
<http://mason.gmu.edu/~bklinger>, <http://cos.gmu.edu/aoes>  
-----

Mark A. Cane  
G. Unger Vetlesen Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University  
61 Route 9W  
Palisades, NY 10964-8000

[mcane@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:mcane@ldeo.columbia.edu) Secretary: Virginia DiBlasi  
845 365 8344 (phone) 845 365 8667  
845 365 8736 (fax) [virginia@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:virginia@ldeo.columbia.edu)  
<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/research/ocean-climate-physics>

Department of Earth and Environmental Science <http://eesc.columbia.edu/>  
Department of Applied Physics and Applied Math  
Founder, Master of Arts Program in Climate and Society:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/climatesociety/>