

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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May 17, 2007

Mr. Rex Tillerson, CEO  
ExxonMobil Corporation  
5959 Las Colinas Boulevard  
Irving, Texas 75039-2298

Dear Mr. Tillerson,

ExxonMobil continues to lead the world's corporations in profits and in market capitalization. Unfortunately, ExxonMobil's economic success has been tarnished by a history of sowing public doubt about the science of climate change, science you privately know to be true.

You acknowledged earlier this year that global warming is a reality. The burning of carbon fuels is a major contributing factor to global warming, as the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has affirmed. Your use of profits from fossil fuels to confuse the public about the implications of their reliance on your product is irresponsible. John D. Rockefeller, the founder of your firm in its original incarnation, said, "The best philanthropy is constantly in search of finalities—a search for a cause, an attempt to cure evils at their source." Your history of support for global warming deniers hardly represents an effort to "cure evils at their source."

Over the last year, confusion has come to surround the question whether, or to what degree, ExxonMobil was still supporting global climate skeptics. Following an exchange of views with the British Royal Society last summer, corporate spokespeople said that ExxonMobil had eliminated funding for a half-dozen skeptic groups, including the Competitive Enterprise Institute. In a September 20, 2006 press release, ExxonMobil claimed that it was reviewing funding for the coming year and that support for "organizations is publicly posted on our web site." In January of this year, an ExxonMobil spokesperson was quoted as claiming that the corporation's position on climate change had been "widely misunderstood and... we have been clarifying and talking more about what our position is."

ExxonMobil's clarification has yet to achieve clarity. The analysis done by Greenpeace highlights disparities between your 2005 World Giving Report and actual giving as reflected in the copy of your IRS 990 tax form. These discrepancies call into question the accuracy of the 2006 World Giving Report. Of course the 2006 World Giving Report confirms that ExxonMobil has not stopped supporting climate skeptic organizations, as past statements from officials of the Corporation suggested would be the stance of the company. I urge you to offer a full accounting

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of actual giving as should be reflected in the corporation's IRS 990 tax form for 2006. Finally, there is no logical reason to wait until next spring to shed light into the current grant-giving practices of the Corporation. Grants awarded for 2007 can be made public immediately if your company wishes to clear the air.

The support of climate skeptics, many of whom have no real grounding in climate science, appears to be an effort to distort public discussion about global warming. So long as popular discussion could be about whether warming was occurring or not, so long as doubt was widespread, consensus for action could be postponed. The Subcommittee held a hearing on March 28, 2007 of this year in which we took testimony on media strategies to influence policy through distortions of science. Witnesses provided clear examples of interested industries using their profits to sow popular confusion and doubt and postpone the formation of consensus on actions that might cut into those profits. It is indefensible for private entities to fund phony science to create fictional "scientific" controversies where no legitimate controversy exists.

I encourage you to make all of your information about philanthropic giving, either by the Corporation or its Foundation, public at your earliest opportunity. Regardless of your decision about public transparency, I ask that you provide copies of the following materials to the Subcommittee by June 1, 2007.

1. A copy of your 2006 IRS 990 tax form.
2. A complete list (if not included in the 2006 IRS 990 form) of all grants awarded in 2006 by recipient indicating the purpose and the amount of the award.
3. A complete list of all corporate grants awarded in 2006 by recipient indicating the purpose and amount of the award.
4. A list of all grants awarded so far in 2007 by recipient, purpose, and amount. Please indicate which grants are funded by the Corporation and which by the Foundation.

ExxonMobil is involved in many meaningful and admirable public projects. I hope that the company has moved away from support for public policy advocates who attempt to twist and distort the scientific record. This would mark a return to the legacy of John D. Rockefeller.

Please contact Dan Pearson of the Subcommittee staff (202-225-4494) to arrange for delivery of these materials or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



BRAD MILLER

Chairman

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

## ATTACHMENT

1. The term "records" is to be construed in the broadest sense and shall mean any written or graphic material, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, consisting of the original and any non-identical copy (whether different from the original because of notes made on or attached to such copy or otherwise) and drafts and both sides thereof, whether printed or recorded electronically or magnetically or stored in any type of data bank, including, but not limited to, the following: correspondence, memoranda, records, summaries of personal conversations or interviews, minutes or records of meetings or conferences, opinions or reports of consultants, projections, statistical statements, drafts, contracts, agreements, purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, telegraphs, telexes, agendas, books, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, studies, evaluations, opinions, logs, diaries, desk calendars, appointment books, tape recordings, video recordings, e-mails, voice mails, computer tapes, or other computer stored matter, magnetic tapes, microfilm, microfiche, punch cards, all other records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means, charts, photographs, notebooks, drawings, plans, inter-office communications, intra-office and intra-departmental communications, transcripts, checks and canceled checks, bank statements, ledgers, books, records or statements of accounts, and papers and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated.
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