



THE CHAIR

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

October 13, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

Thank you for your September 29, 2016 letter regarding media reports of a purported investigation of Exxon Mobil Corporation.

While I am aware of the press accounts referenced in your letter, the Securities and Exchange Commission conducts investigations on a confidential basis. We do so in order to protect the integrity of our investigations, safeguard the privacy of witnesses, and avoid damaging the reputations of parties who may not be charged. For these reasons, the Commission generally does not acknowledge the existence or non-existence of an investigation unless and until charges are filed. Accordingly, I cannot comment specifically on the matter raised in your letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 551-2100, or have a member of your staff contact Keith Cassidy, Director of the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 551-2010, for further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Jo White".

Mary Jo White  
Chair

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology