

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



HECTOR H. BALDERAS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

TANIA MAESTAS
Deputy of Civil Affairs

SHARON PINO
Deputy of Criminal Affairs

CARLA MARTINEZ
Chief of Staff for Operations

SONYA CARRASCO-TRUJILLO
Chief of Staff for Policy & Public Affairs

May 30, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space & Technology
2321 Raburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6301

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am writing in response to your letter dated May 18, 2016 to Attorney General Balderas. In that letter, you made several requests for documents relating to what you assert is a first amendment issue stemming from several state Attorneys General exercising their authority to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens from the effects of climate change. The Office of the New Mexico Attorney objects to your request and respectfully denies the allegations within your request.

The Office of the New Mexico Attorney General objects to your request on the grounds that the committee lacks jurisdiction to request this information from a state law enforcement agency. Your request is an infringement on the sovereign authority of this office and is improper. In addition, your assertions about this office's involvement in this issue are factually misguided. The Office of the New Mexico Attorney General has not issued any subpoena, civil investigative demand, or any other demand. Further, and to that end, this office has not been involved in a year's long "working group", nor is this office party to any other body that has, as you suggest, been mounting an investigation into fossil fuel companies or related research entities. You suggest that such conspiracy began as early as 2012. This is simply incorrect. The Office of the New Mexico Attorney General has only recently engaged with our sister states in an effort to knowledge share and better understand how the issue of climate change is impacting the citizens of their states, as well as ours. This office is not, nor has it ever been, been part of a systematic investigative scheme.

Our mission is to protect New Mexican families in order to make our communities safer and more prosperous. All actions taken on behalf of the Office of New Mexico Attorney General are taken with integrity and in furtherance of such mission. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional concerns that I may answer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tania Maestas".

Tania Maestas

Deputy Attorney General