



INTERFAITH MORAL ACTION ON CLIMATE

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Co-Chair
The Honorable Keith Ellison, Co-Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerald Connolly, Co-Chair
The Honorable Paul Tonko, Co-Chair
The Honorable Doris Matsui, Co-Chair
Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Messrs. Grijalva, Ellison, Connolly, Tonko and Ms. Matsui:

On behalf of Interfaith Moral Action on Climate (IMAC), a coalition of more than 100 faith organizations and leaders including Evangelicals, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Unitarian Universalists, Buddhists and others who recognize the moral imperative for urgent action on the climate crisis, we applaud your initiative in convening this timely forum to review the allegations regarding Exxon's decades-long campaign of climate deception. Our gratitude goes as well to the Columbia School of Journalism, the reporters with InsideClimate News and the researchers with the Union of Concerned Scientists whose investigations brought these findings to light.

Many in the faith community see the climate crisis as the greatest moral issue of our time. For us, this forum is a powerful wakeup call to the American people who, viewing it via live stream, will finally be able to hear for themselves the evidence of Exxon's misdeeds, and understand the chain of events that have brought us the grave environmental crisis we now face.

If Exxon's corporate leaders had reported what its own scientists were saying about the dire impacts of fossil fuel use on the climate, we might well have gained a crucial 40 years of public attention and official action to prevent this crisis.

Instead, Exxon launched a disinformation campaign to confuse the public with claims that there was no emerging climate crisis. And they succeeded. Their false narrative continues to prevent unified support for policies that will transition our nation from a fossil fuel-based economy to one powered by clean, safe, renewable energy.

Viewed from every perspective: health, economic, national security, humanitarian and faith, the moral imperative to act decisively to address the climate crisis and prevent further harm to the poor and vulnerable is clear.

The faith community must be the bellwether in matters of moral concern. On climate, confusion must yield to understanding and falsehood must give way to the truth.

We ask the CPC and SEEC members to join with communities of faith in calling upon the Attorney General to order a Department of Justice investigation into Exxon's actions and in urging President Obama to issue an Executive Order banning any new fossil fuel leases on federal lands and waters.

Sincerely,

Steering Committee
Interfaith Moral Action on Climate
imaclimate@gmail.com