Science/Current events/Government

Subject: California: don't let oil companies off the hook

ACTION ALERT
California: Don't Let Oil Companies Off the Hook

Climate Deception Shouldn't Pay
California has the opportunity to
Major fossil fuel companies have known about the science of global warming for decades. However, instead of addressing the harm they knew their products caused, these companies chose a course of public denial and deception.

That's why California State Senator Ben Allen recently introduced the **Climate Science Truth and Accountability Act (SB 1161)**, which holds fossil fuel companies accountable for decades of climate deception. The bill is up for its first vote next Wednesday, and your state senator needs to hear from you.

**Tell your state senator to support the bill to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for deceiving the public about the science of climate change.**

In 2015, the Union of Concerned Scientists and several news sources brought to light dozens of leaked and recovered internal company documents. These documents show clearly that not only did companies understand the science and risks of climate change, but—just like the tobacco industry before them—they conceived and executed a plan to sow confusion and mislead the public to protect their profits.

A 1995 primer prepared by climate scientists for a coalition of fossil fuel companies read, "The scientific basis for the Greenhouse Effect...is well established and cannot be denied." Three years later, the American Petroleum Institute—whose member companies include BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, and Shell—made a plan to achieve "victory" by manufacturing uncertainty about climate science, as evidenced by a leaked strategy memo.

We can hold these companies accountable for misleading the public about climate change. **Tell your state senator to support the Climate Science Truth and Accountability Act today.**

From worsening droughts to hospitalizations and deaths from heat waves, California is suffering from the costly effects of climate change. Under California state law, these companies can already be taken to court for misleading the public about their products. But, the statute of limitations for fraudulent business practices is typically only four years. These companies deceived the public for decades about the climate impacts their products would have, which is why the Climate Science Truth and Accountability Act would extend the statute of limitations for public deception about climate science to 30 years.

Oil companies are not going to let this pass without a fight, and we don't have much time to compete with their influence in Sacramento. **Tell your state senator: don't let fossil fuel companies off the hook—support the Climate Science Truth and Accountability Act.**

Sincerely,