



## Washington State Senate

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March 9, 2016

The Honorable Bob Ferguson  
Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
PO Box 40100  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0100

Dear Attorney General Ferguson:

I am writing to request an investigation into whether Exxon Mobil Corp. committed securities fraud or violated environmental laws of Washington State by repeatedly lying to the public and shareholders about the effects of its business on climate change.

Investigations by the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets have indicated that Exxon scientists confirmed fossil fuels' role in climate change decades ago, but top executives decided to hide the truth and instead embarked on a campaign of denial and disinformation. As I am sure you are aware, the Washington Consumer Protection Act declares that unfair and deceptive practices in trade or commerce are illegal. As well, the Business Opportunity Fraud Act and the Securities Act were meant to protect against this kind of fraud by public companies.

I thank you for the leadership you've shown on environmental issues and fighting for the people of Washington State. Climate change is the defining issue of our time that is going to have dire consequences for future generations if we do not act to slow it. If our country's largest oil company has fraudulently denied the existence of anthropogenic climate change for their own business interests, that company should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I strongly encourage you investigate this matter and, if a violation or violations are found, I implore you to prosecute the offenders on behalf of the people of Washington.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marko Liias", followed by a horizontal line.

Sen. Marko Liias  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District