

December 17, 2015

Dr. Lee Bollinger
President, Columbia University
202 Low Library
535 W. 115th Street, Mail Code 4309
New York, NY 10027

Dear Dr. Bollinger:

We noted your recent request to Columbia's School of Journalism Dean Steve Coll to review the allegations in a [Nov. 22 letter](#) by ExxonMobil PR executive Ken Cohen that Columbia University journalists unfairly reported the company had misled the public about climate change.

We think it was generous of you to task Dean Coll with this review in the spirit of complete transparency.

In that same spirit, we want to bring to your attention the long-standing resistance to just such transparency by Columbia's Global Center on Energy Policy (CGEP) and its Founding Director Jason Bordoff.

Now that [POLITICO has revealed](#) that ExxonMobil donated, through its foundation, \$25,000 to CGEP in 2014, we ask that you insist the Center report its funding sources and amounts since it was created.

We know that The Center on Global Energy Policy, formerly known as the [Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy](#), received at least [\\$875,000 from ExxonMobil](#) before its rebranding several years ago.

We send this request to you after Checks and Balances Project sent letters of inquiry in [September 2014](#) and [January 2015](#) to Mr. Bordoff that met with no response. DeSmog has also sent multiple rounds of information requests to the CGEP, also without response.

Our interest in the Center's funding was triggered when we learned that it was the landing pad for two U.S. State Department players involved with the now-discredited Environmental Impact Study that pronounced there would be *no* appreciable pollution impact from the Keystone XL Pipeline:

- Keith Benes, now "Program Director, International Climate Policy," at Global Center on Energy Policy was the civil servant driving the EIS process that was the subject of two probes by the Department's Inspector General.
- Ambassador Carlos Pascual, now a CGEP Fellow, was the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs at the time the flawed EIS was touted.

You will, I trust, find it relevant that at least nine of 19 people on the Center's Advisory Council are closely linked to the fossil fuel industry:

- John Knight, EVP Statoil
- Ed Morse, Citi Commodities, former president of Petroleum Intelligence Weekly
- Bill White, former Houston mayor, on numerous public energy company boards
- Paul Joskow, member of Exelon board, previously TransCanada
- Mike Tusiani, global energy broker
- Lady Barbara Judge, former board member of coal company Massey Energy
- Daniel Yergin, Pulitzer-winning author of oil industry bestseller and industry consultant

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- Zachary Schreiber, chief investment officer, PointState Capital
- Michael D. Tusiani, chair of Poten & Partners, a major oil and LNG shipper.

Given your clear commitment to upholding the Columbia University values of balance and accountability, I am sure that we are bringing this to your attention for the first time. That's why we respectfully request that you ask Mr. Bordoff for the same level of transparency that you insisted on from the School of Journalism. Will you compel Mr. Bordoff to release the names of CGEP's funders and amounts donated since its inception?

Sincerely,

Scott Peterson, executive director, [Checks and Balances Project](#)

Ken Cook, co-founder & president, [Environmental Working Group](#)

Ross Hammond, US Campaigns director, [ForestEthics](#)

Mike Tidwell, director, [Chesapeake Climate Action Network](#)

Jane Kleeb, founder, [Bold Nebraska](#)

Tyson Slocum, director, [Public Citizen](#)

RL Miller, cofounder, [Climate Hawks Vote](#)

[Columbia Divest for Climate Justice](#)