



**DAVID PORTER**  
CHAIRMAN, RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Ken Paxton  
Attorney General, Texas  
Austin, TX 78711

General Paxton,

Radical environmentalist ideology is increasingly masquerading as scientific fact and causing a chilling effect on credible climate science and free speech. One of the most dangerous examples of this trend came in October with [Hillary Clinton's](#) accusation against Exxon Mobil Corp that the company "misled the public about the risks of climate change or its investors about how those risks may hurt the company's oil business." Her call gave New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman political cover to launch a climate change witch hunt against Exxon Mobil earlier this month.

The New York AG's effort is being portrayed as an attempt to hold the energy industry accountable for its impact on climate change. In reality, it's nothing more than an effort by liberal ideologues to punish entities that do not share their religious zealotry on the issue, and ultimately force the energy industry into a position in which its own resources are unjustly and unfairly used against itself in the war on fossil fuels. This is a deeply troubling effort to limit free thought and speech on an incredibly controversial issue, and my concern is that government agencies will investigate any entity that questions climate change science.

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) is charged with regulating the state's oil and gas industry. We take this responsibility very seriously, as it is vital to the economic strength of our state and nation. The U.S. is one of the world's leading oil producers, and Texas, as the top oil producing state, is largely responsible for this success. The U.S. is also the world's largest natural gas producer, and Texas is responsible for almost one-third of all marketed natural gas produced in the nation. Given these facts, I am extremely concerned about these recent reports that are intended to damage the U.S. and Texas oil and gas industries and to further the left's radical green effort.

General Paxton, you have taken a rock-solid stance against federal overreach and dangerous radicalism posing as policy. I encourage you to be wary of similar efforts in Texas, so that together we can continue protecting our state's natural resources, as well as the economic vitality of the industry that produces these resources, employs hundreds of thousands of Texans and paves the way for American energy independence. My office is at your disposal to provide any information you may need on this issue.

Thank you for your serious attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Porter".

David Porter  
Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas