



February 19, 2016

**Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations
Statement for the Record**

ExxonMobil would like to provide some background on an issue that was raised during today's hearing.

ExxonMobil has been the target of a campaign to misrepresent our history, contributions, and positions on climate science.

It is alleged that ExxonMobil knew everything there is to know about climate change back in the late 1970s and early 1980s; that we then proceeded to suspend our climate research; and that we subsequently suppressed it to sow scientific disinformation in the policy arena.

On each and every one of these points, the allegations are meritless.

Our climate research work began in the 1970s with scientists and engineers asking fundamental questions related to operating in an environmentally responsible way. The conclusion we reached at that time was in harmony with what other scientists saw in the 1970s: the scientific community did not know enough about the complex interactions between the many atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial forces influencing climate.

We continued our work throughout the 1980s with ongoing efforts to build understanding, through scientific research. Specifically, we set out to help international academic and institutional efforts improve the research, models, and scientific understanding. Our scientific relationships and collaboration continue to this day. As a result, we have produced hundreds of publicly available papers, including more than 50 peer-reviewed publications. We have worked to improve climate modeling, interdisciplinary cooperation, exploration of fundamental science on energy, and the search for lower-carbon sources of energy. In addition, ExxonMobil has collaborated with top scientists and participated in the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change since its inception in 1988 to the present day. We are proud of our leadership in researching climate change, and have not hesitated in sharing our findings with the scientific community and the broader public.

In terms of policy, ExxonMobil has sought to build understanding about the policy options for spurring innovation, promoting efficiency, and reducing emissions. Part of this commitment includes speaking out when we believe public policies are unsound and could lead to unintended consequences, generate unanticipated costs, or undermine opportunity in developing economies.

Over time we have become concerned that growing political partisanship regarding the policy discussion has become a distraction from our well-established commitment to build scientific understanding and support cooperative policymaking.

ExxonMobil has made it clear in our official publications, investor correspondence, public speeches, and private policy discussions that we believe the risks of climate change are serious and warrant thoughtful action.

Over the past four decades, ExxonMobil has been a leader in taking action to mitigate the risks of climate change in our operations. And we continue to press forward new energy innovations – including carbon capture and sequestration, advanced biofuels, and, most significantly, expanding the availability of cleaner-burning natural gas.

Through our work with a wide array of institutions, think tanks, and trade associations, ExxonMobil seeks to be a responsible participant in discussions and actions that lead to expanding energy supplies in safe, secure, and environmentally responsible ways. And each year, we review our relationships and associations to ensure they meet our commitment to positive action.