GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General

ATTORNEY GENERAL
KARL A. RACINE

May 31, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6301

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) is in receipt of the letter that you and 12 of your colleagues sent on May 18, 2016 requesting information about any investigation or potential prosecution of certain entities that have questioned the causes, magnitude, or best ways to address climate change. OAG has not initiated any formal investigation or prosecution of the nature that your letter describes. We therefore have no responsive documents that we can produce to you at this time.

Further, we note that your letter wholly mischaracterizes the functioning of our office. Pursuant to its legislative mandate, OAG is required to act in a manner that protects the public interest. We take seriously our duty to investigate and, where appropriate, bring suit to curb potentially fraudulent behavior that harms the public. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and should we determine that is appropriate to take legal steps in this area, it is well within the mandate of this office to address the issue using our authorities in the manner we find prudent and effective.

If you or other members of your Committee have further questions, we would be happy to discuss.

Sincerely,

Natalie O Ludaway

Natalie O. Ludaway
Chief Deputy Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member