

**MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT REQUEST**

February 14, 2020

Keith Ellison, Esq.  
Or Responsible Authority  
Office of the Attorney General  
445 Minnesota St.  
Suite 1400  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2131

**By Electronic Mail:** [Attorney.General@ag.state.mn.us](mailto:Attorney.General@ag.state.mn.us)  
**Re:** Certain Correspondence

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Energy Policy Advocates (EPA), recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit public policy institute under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. §13.01, *et seq.*, I hereby request copies of the following records: any document or data that refers to or relates to payment arrangements, payments, instruction of, or reporting requirements for individuals related to the New York University or any fellowship or funding provided by the New York University for work done in the Office of the Attorney General of Minnesota. This request includes, but is not limited to, documents indicating whether individuals working for the AG are paid in whole or in part by NYU, whether NYU gives money to the AG to subsidize any individual's salary or wage, the job description at the AG's office of any person hired in any way related to NYU (other than having attended there), and to whom any individual hired in any way related to NYU (other than having attended there) reports for work assignments.

We request a rolling production of records, such that the agency furnishes records to my attention as soon as they are processed.

We understand that in some instances a public body may charge a fee for the cost of the search, examination, review, copying, separation of confidential from nonconfidential information, and mailing costs. If your Office expects to seek a charge associated with the searching, copying or production of these records, please provide an estimate of anticipated costs.

As noted earlier in this request, EPA is a non-profit public policy organization dedicated to informing the public of developments in the area of energy and environmental issues and relationships between governmental and non-governmental entities as they relate to those issues. EPA's ability to obtain fee waivers is essential to this work. EPA intends to use any responsive information to continue its work highlighting the nexus between interested non-governmental entities and government agency decision-making. The public is both interested in and entitled to know how regulatory, policy and enforcement decisions are reached. EPA ensures the public is made aware of its work and findings via its partnership with the non-profit public interest law firm Government Accountability & Oversight, P.C., and the [ClimateLitigationWatch.org](http://ClimateLitigationWatch.org) project dedicated to broadly disseminating energy and environmental policy news and developments. The public information obtained by EPA and published on [ClimateLitigationWatch.org](http://ClimateLitigationWatch.org) have

been relied upon by established media outlets, including the Washington Times and Wall Street Journal editorial page.<sup>1</sup>

We look forward to your response. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by email at [MatthewDHardin@protonmail.com](mailto:MatthewDHardin@protonmail.com).

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Hardin

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., The Editorial Board, “State AGs’ Climate Cover-Up” Wall Street Journal, June 7, 2019, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/state-ags-climate-cover-up-11559945410>. Valerie Richardson, “Motivated or manipulated? Rise of youth climate activism fuels alarms over exploitation” Washington Times, March 15, 2019, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/mar/13/youth-climate-strike-sparks-debate-use-students-pr/>, see also “Climate Strike Sparks Debate on Use of Students as Props”, [https://www.realclearpolicy.com/2019/03/15/climate\\_strike\\_sparks\\_debate\\_on\\_use\\_of\\_students\\_as\\_props\\_41180.html](https://www.realclearpolicy.com/2019/03/15/climate_strike_sparks_debate_on_use_of_students_as_props_41180.html). Valerie Richardson, “Democratic AGs team up with George Soros-funded group on anti-Trump lawsuit” Washington Times, August 1, 2019, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/aug/1/george-soros-funded-group-democratic-ags-partner-a/>. Anthony Watts, “Emails reveals how children become pawns of climate alarmism”, Watts Up With That (two-time Science Website of the Year), March 13, 2019, <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/03/13/emails-reveal-how-children-become-pawns-of-climate-alarmism/>.