

REQUEST UNDER ILLINOIS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

March 16, 2020

Caitlin Q. Knutte
FOIA Officer
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
500 S. Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701

By Electronic Mail: foiaofficer@atg.state.il.us
Re: Common Interest Agreements

Dear Ms. Knutte:

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, and pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140, I hereby request copies of the following records: any common interest agreement entered into by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General at any time in 2017 through 2020, inclusive.

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](https://www.climateactionwatch.org/) project dedicated to broadly disseminating energy and environmental policy news and developments. The public information obtained by EPA and published on [ClimateLitigationWatch.org](https://www.climateactionwatch.org/) have been relied upon by established media outlets, including the Washington Times and Wall Street Journal editorial page.¹

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

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Hardin

¹ 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. 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/>.