

## MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

August 5, 2019

Barbara Bond  
Office of the Attorney General  
200 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**By Electronic Mail:** [bbond@oag.state.md.us](mailto:bbond@oag.state.md.us)  
**Re:** Certain Correspondence and Appointment Letters

Dear Ms. Bond:

On behalf of Energy Policy Advocates, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit public policy institute under § 501(c)(3) the Internal Revenue Code, pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act, G.P. §§ 4-101 - 4-601, please provide copies of the following records:

1. All correspondence, and any accompanying information<sup>1</sup>, including also any attachments, a) sent to or from or copying (whether as cc: or bcc:) Steve Goldstein, that b) includes anywhere, whether as sent to or from or copying (again whether as cc: or bcc:), or otherwise, i) any email address ending with [@nyu.edu](mailto:@nyu.edu), and/or ii) [davidjhayes01@gmail.com](mailto:davidjhayes01@gmail.com), and is c) dated from March 1, 2019 through the date you process this request, inclusive;
2. Any appointment letter(s) sent to Steve Goldstein from the Office of the Attorney General;
3. Any electronic correspondence transmitting this letter to Steve Goldstein and/or to any email address ending with [@nyu.edu](mailto:@nyu.edu);

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<sup>1</sup> See discussion of SEC Data Delivery Standards, *infra*.

4. Any offer of employment, and/or hiring or appointment letter(s) sent to Steve Goldstein from the New York University State Energy and Environmental Impact Center; and
5. Any electronic correspondence transmitting this letter to the Office of the Attorney General.

All records responsive to this request are likely dated from April 1, 2019 through the date you process this request. Given the nature of the records responsive to this request, most are likely to be held in electronic format, and there should be no photocopying costs. Their nature also strongly suggest these records are held in a common location and are readily located. However, if the documents were sent or received by your Office in hard copy, we request you produce them electronically.

We request entire threads of which any responsive correspondence is a part, regardless whether any portion falls outside of the above time parameter. To narrow this request, please consider as non-responsive electronic correspondence that merely receives or forwards press clippings, such as news services or stories or opinion pieces, if that correspondence has no comment or no substantive comment added by a party other than the original sender in the thread (an electronic mail message that includes any expression of opinion or viewpoint would be considered as including substantive comment; examples of non-responsive emails would be those forwarding a news report or opinion piece with no comment or only “fyi”, or “interesting”).

We understand that 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. Given EPA's non-profit and public interest nature and intention to broadly disseminate relevant findings, EPA requests a waiver or reduction of any applicable fees.

Energy Policy Advocates requests records on your system, e.g., its backend logs, and does not seek only those records which survive on an employee's own machine or account. We do not demand your office produce requested information in any particular form, instead **we request records in their native form**, with specific reference to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Data Delivery Standards.<sup>2</sup> The covered information we seek is electronic information, this includes electronic *records*, and other public *information*.

To quote the SEC Data Delivery Standards, "Electronic files must be produced in their native format, i.e. the format in which they are ordinarily used and maintained during the normal course of business. For example, an MS Excel file must be produced as an MS Excel file rather than an image of a spreadsheet. *(Note: An Adobe PDF file is not considered a native file unless the document was initially created as a PDF.)*" (emphases in original).

In many native-format productions, certain public information remains contained in the record (e.g., metadata). Under the same standards, to ensure production of all information requested, if your production will be de-duplicated it is vital that you 1) preserve any unique metadata associated with the duplicate files, for example, custodian name, and, 2) make that unique metadata part of your production.

Native file productions may be produced without load files. However, native file productions must maintain the integrity of the original meta data, and must be produced as they

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sec.gov/divisions/enforce/datadeliverystandards.pdf>.

are maintained in the normal course of business and organized by custodian-named file folders. A separate folder should be provided for each custodian.

In the event that necessity requires your office to produce a PDF file, due to your normal program for redacting certain information and such that native files cannot be produced as they are maintained in the normal course of business, in order to provide all requested information each PDF file should be produced in separate folders named by the custodian, *and* accompanied by a load file to ensure the requested information appropriate for that discrete record is associated with that record. The required fields and format of the data to be provided within the load file can be found in Addendum A of the above-cited SEC Data Standards. All produced PDFs must be text searchable.

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  
Executive Director  
Energy Policy Advocates