



About the Center for Climate Integrity

The Center for Climate Integrity, a project of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, empowers communities and elected officials with the knowledge and tools they need to hold polluters accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis and the fraud they've perpetrated on the American public. Through campaigns, communications, and strategic legal support, we work to ensure that the fossil fuel industry pays their fair share for the massive existing (and projected) costs of climate change.

About Climate Accountability Litigation

Oil and gas companies knew more than 50 years ago that their products would cause catastrophic climate change, but they lied to the public, policymakers, and the media in order to block regulatory action and protect their own profits. Founded on well-established legal principles, climate accountability provides that fossil fuel companies, like any other industry that obscured the dangers they knew their products would cause from consumers and the public (i.e. tobacco, opioids, lead, asbestos and more), should face consequences and pay for the costs of their actions.

Today, two dozen communities, including the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Delaware and Connecticut, have sued major fossil fuel companies for consumer fraud and/or damages associated with adapting to the climate crisis and rebuilding in the wake of climate disasters.

The Case for New Jersey

In September of 2020, Hoboken, New Jersey filed a lawsuit against major oil and gas companies, seeking their fair share of the hundreds of millions the city is already spending to address climate instability. Hoboken isn't alone: as municipal governments across New Jersey fund necessary projects to protect critical infrastructure, homes, jobs, public health and safety from worsening climate threats, already-stretched local budgets are facing dramatic shortfalls:

- New Jersey taxpayers could spend [\\$25 billion](#) on sea wall construction over the next five to ten years to defend its coastal communities against rising seas;
- Superstorm Sandy cost the state over \$36 billion, and the state will inevitably need to prepare for more severe and frequent storms like it;
- A comprehensive report released by the NJDEP in June 2020 warned of a slew of other statewide climate risks, including extreme temperatures and dangerous wildfires in the New Jersey Pinelands, and their associated costs.

In March of 2020, Senator Loretta Weinberg introduced a [resolution](#) calling on Governor Murphy and Attorney General Grewal to file a statewide climate accountability lawsuit on behalf of residents across New Jersey. That ask has since been supported by a [bipartisan group](#) of 24 elected officials and 70 nonprofit organizations, and by municipalities across the state who have [passed](#) their own resolutions urging the same. Support for climate accountability is popular with the majority of New Jersey voters, according to Rutgers-Eagleton [polling](#) from 2019. **It's time for New Jersey to stand up to polluters to ensure that residents don't foot these bills alone — and that no community is left behind.**