

Dear Professor Freeman,

As members of the Harvard Law School community, as current and future advocates, and as your former students, we respectfully but firmly urge you to resign from your position on the Board of Directors at ConocoPhillips.

On the last day of our Legislation and Regulation class, you encouraged us to use our privilege for good—to recognize that, as Harvard lawyers, people will listen to what we think and care about where we stand. We take this responsibility seriously. We are eager to carry forward the lessons and insights we learned in your class. But we are disappointed and ashamed that ConocoPhillips is capitalizing on the Harvard Law School credential to legitimize and further its legacy of corporate profiteering and destruction.

It will, without question, take a clean energy revolution to mitigate the devastating effects of fossil fuel usage over the past century. But in the face of near-certain devastation, companies like ConocoPhillips are standing in the way of that transition and borrowing credibility from respected environmental policy leaders to do so.

For decades, as environmental advocates have worked toward more ambitious climate goals, environmental regulations, and corporate accountability measures, the fossil fuel industry has done everything in its power to maintain public dependence on coal and oil. The harm is ongoing: ConocoPhillips is forging ahead with the [Willow Project](#) despite estimates that the project's greenhouse gas emissions will be equivalent to 70 new coal-fired power plants over its lifetime. Alaskan Native communities and environmentalists predict the project will exacerbate air pollution, poor water quality, and food insecurity in the already vulnerable region. The existential threat of global climate change cannot be overstated.

Given the impending assault on the administrative state, the time has come for legal academia to make a stronger stand. We learned the case law in your class, and we see the writing on the wall: empowering regulatory bodies is not on this Supreme Court's agenda. The regulatory toolbox is rapidly shrinking. With fewer administrative checks in place, our individual and collective power to avert the climate crisis matter even more—it's all hands on deck.

We acknowledge that advocacy takes many forms, and we admire your proven dedication to achieving environmental justice. Still, we implore you to choose a different weapon in the fight against climate change. Sever your relationship with ConocoPhillips. Donate your profits to organizations fighting for environmental justice for impacted communities. Reaffirm your commitment to a healthier, more sustainable world by aligning with allies who truly care about making progress, not profits.

Be with us.

Sincerely,

Members of HLS Section 7 including:

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