



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 13, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6301

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am writing in response to your May 18, 2016, request for documents related to the issue of climate change. As the basis for your request for documents, your letter makes numerous erroneous and unsupported claims about the actions of our office. We do not intend to respond to those allegations.

Our office is concerned about the threat to public health and welfare posed by the effects of climate change and has worked for many years with other state attorneys general to support reasonable efforts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. As a result of this work, our office is in frequent communication with other state attorneys general, stakeholders and concerned citizens on the topic of climate change and carbon pollution.

With regard to your request for specific documents, however, we decline to respond. As an initial matter, we are not able to share confidential information about state law enforcement matters that may or may not be pending within the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Additionally, we are not aware of any legal basis providing Congress with jurisdiction to seek documents from a state law enforcement office regarding that office's exercise of the state's sovereign powers.

For these reasons, we respectfully decline to respond to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Gignac". The signature is written in a cursive style.

JAMES P. GIGNAC
Environmental and Energy Counsel
Illinois Attorney General's Office

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member