

GREENPEACE

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Dear Greenpeace supporter,

Unwilling to change its disastrous policies with respect to climate change and toxic pollution, and not content simply to add insult to injury by suing Greenpeace and Greenpeace activists, ExxonMobil is now revving up its disinformation campaign, including a recent letter, full of distortions. We want to set the record straight.

Throughout America's history, it has sometimes taken iconic protest efforts to transform debate and bring meaningful change: from the right of women to vote to the right of workers to organize, from civil rights for people of color to prevention of the spread of the deadly AIDS virus. Sometimes these actions have included violations of the law – such as trespassing and disobeying orders from police personnel. Brave Americans have been willing to stand up for what they believe is right, and they have been willing to accept responsibility for their actions.

The Greenpeace activists protested peacefully at ExxonMobil headquarters because they were inspired to do something to stop ExxonMobil's destruction of the planet. The activists were prepared to accept responsibility for their acts. What is worrisome is the overreaching and oppressive litigation being pursued by ExxonMobil in the wake of the protest, as well as the threat of potential felony charges by Texas prosecutors. ExxonMobil is claiming the right to a permanent nationwide injunction barring Greenpeace protests on facilities owned or even temporarily used by the company and its affiliates.

Julian Bond, an associate of Dr. Martin Luther King, former Georgia state senator, and current chair of the NAACP, recently said: "Peaceful, nonviolent protest has brought much positive change for our country, especially when used by the civil rights movement. ExxonMobil's heavy-handed attack on Greenpeace is an assault on the time-honored tradition of free speech that has made our country stronger."

Exxon cannot expect its critics to voice their protest only in ways that are convenient to ExxonMobil, such as in the designated area for protests outside of its annual meeting, while the company reserves for itself the right to aggressively thwart international action to address climate change and to use its extensive financial muscle and insider relationships to engage an army of lobbyists and experts-for-hire and distort public debate on the issues. Please see a new Greenpeace website -- www.exxonsecrets.org – that carefully documents and graphically illustrates how ExxonMobil provides extensive funding for supposedly independent experts who work to cast doubt on the well-documented science regarding climate change.

As to the specifics of the May 2003 protest, ExxonMobil's assertion that Greenpeace

trucks were used to block the main gate "so that employees, police and other emergency vehicles could not enter or leave the site" is false. Greenpeace vehicles were parked at the main gate of ExxonMobil's headquarters, but there was still sufficient room for vehicles to come and go through that gate. Police vehicles did enter the facility -- through another gate. In addition, Greenpeace activists were prepared to move their vehicles within seconds if the need arose.

At the time of the protest, the Bush Administration had declared the overall security situation in the United States to be "level orange" ("high risk of terrorist attacks") -- above "level yellow" ("significant risk") and below "level red" ("severe risk"). The fluctuations of the threat level by executive branch decision do not suspend America's tradition of free speech and peaceful protest.

The protest at ExxonMobil headquarters was peaceful. As soon as the protest began, Greenpeace activists informed ExxonMobil that this was a peaceful event operated by Greenpeace. All of the protestors involved clearly identified themselves as being with Greenpeace, either verbally or by wearing colorful Greenpeace t-shirts. Many of the protestors dressed in comical cartoon tiger costumes.

The potential felony charges hanging over the heads of the protestors are dependent upon proving an injury to an elderly person -- apparently a reference an alleged cut received by a security guard, age 67, while forcibly restraining a Greenpeace protestor. The Greenpeace protestor, dressed in a tiger costume, did not resist. Rather, he acted peacefully. The Texas Observer magazine viewed video of this event and reported: "In the video, [the security guard], a heavyset man, is seen with his arms around the neck of a costumed activist, whose tail flaps as he is bounced about by the stocky security guard. The tiger appears to be trying to keep a non-confrontational posture, with his arms down." See <http://www.texasobserver.org/showArticle.asp?ArticleID=1627>. If the guard was injured, it was not caused by a protestor and there is no evidence that it was serious enough to require hospitalization or other extensive treatment.

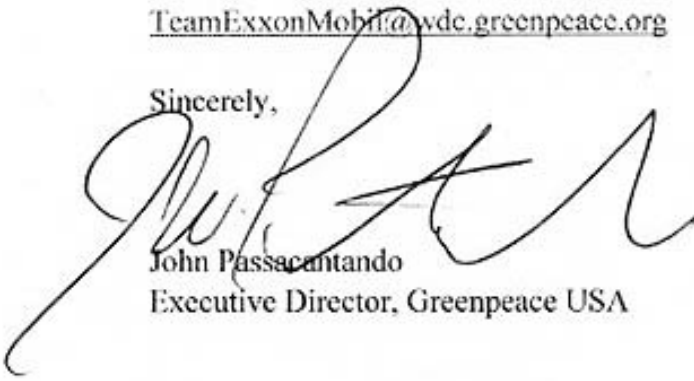
In regards to the Exxon Valdez oil spill disaster, Alaskans and the natural environment continue to suffer from this disaster, even 15 years later. Recent studies show that animals including harbor seals, common loons, harlequin ducks, and pacific herrings have not recovered from the spill. The 1,300 miles of coast blanketed with crude oil by the Valdez are still heavily polluted, and a disease outbreak related to the spill in the mid-1990's further affected Prince William Sound, which remains closed to commercial fishing. The 15 Native communities that rely on nature for subsistence have not seen ample return of ocean wildlife to their areas.

In January, ExxonMobil again appealed US District Judge Russell Holland's order for the company to pay \$4.5 billion in punitive damages with interest. The damages are to be divided among 34,000 fisherman and Alaskans whose livelihood and property were

severely damaged when the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Bligh Reef in 1989. Despite experiencing record profits and all of us paying record prices for our gas, the company has been appealing the decision since the original verdict in 1994. At the same time, they have been waging a campaign questioning the competence and fairness of juries in setting punitive damages. While this campaign gains momentum, ExxonMobil has used all appeals possible to avoid paying the damage claim.

Exxon's response to the action you took on our website was just another example of the company distorting the facts and trying to confuse the public. Please feel free to contact me or a member of my team at anytime about these issues at TeamExxonMobil@wdc.greenpeace.org

Sincerely,



John Passacantando
Executive Director, Greenpeace USA