

# OPINION

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## The Times-Union

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THE TIMES-UNION Friday, April 6, 2018 **A7**

### ANOTHER VIEW

## *Hold Big Oil accountable for deceptive tactics*

**T**he March 29 AP story headlined “Judge dismisses Exxon lawsuit against climate change probe” deserves further consideration, especially in coastal areas.

There is ample evidence that the exploits of the fossil-fuel industry threatens America’s future more than ever.

Oil and gas companies are suppressing information about climate change, subverting urgently needed efforts to reduce the worst impacts. These impacts include an accelerating rise in sea level, decline of important ocean food sources and destructive events like hurricanes and wildfires. These impacts are mounting as emissions of greenhouse gases accumulate with combustion of fossil fuels.

To exploit fossil fuels, Exxon and others are working to discredit well-documented climate threats, relaxing vehicle-efficiency standards and substituting “weather extremes” for “climate change” language at federal agencies.

These and other subversions are leveraged by the political influence bought by Big Oil, which spends hundreds of millions annually to maneuver government policy toward its devious advantage.

One fabrication used to promote environmentally hazardous energy projects is that more fossil-fuels are needed for “America’s energy independence.”

That threadbare claim and the cynical deception behind it are exposed and refuted by this simple fact:

more oil and gas is being exported from the United States than ever before.

Accordingly, fossil fuel companies are extracting our nation’s resources for exploitation elsewhere, fortifying the profitable but globally reckless status quo.

Accommodating climate change hazards — such as adapting to sea-level rise — without giving priority to reducing emission of greenhouse gases empowers the strategies of the special interests that profit at the escalating risk of climate catastrophes.

It is urgent that we confront climate change directly by holding Big Oil accountable.

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