

### Vital truths vs. well-financed deceptions

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

There’s ample evidence that the exploits of the fossil-fuel industry threaten 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 – such as accelerating rise in sea level, decline of important ocean food sources, and destructive events such as hurricanes and wildfires. These impacts are mounting as emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) 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 their devious advantage.

One fabrication used to promote environmentally hazardous energy projects is that more fossil-fuels are needed for “America’s energy independence.” The fact that more oil and gas is being exported from the U.S. than ever discloses the cynical deception behind that threadbare claim.

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 GHGs empowers the strategies of special interests who profit at the escalating risk of climate catastrophes.

Confronting climate change directly by holding Big Oil accountable is urgently needed.

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