

All,

Subject:

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FW: InsideClimate News seeking to talk about BP & Washington state climate policy

Best, Jason



From: Marianne Lavelle @insideclimatenews.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 10:42 AM

To: USPRESS @BP.COM>; Cochrane, Phil @bp.com>; Ryan, Jason @bp.com>
Subject: InsideClimate News seeking to talk about BP & Washington state climate policy

Hello Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Ryan, and BP press team,

I'm a reporter at InsideClimate News, and we have been writing about state efforts at climate policy and some of the obstacles encountered as well as pitfalls.

In researching the history of what happened in Washington state over the past couple of years, we made a few broad FOIA requests for communications with Gov. Inslee's office, and it is clear that BP has been deeply engaged in these issues.

I wondered if someone at BP might be willing to talk about the role the company played in the evolution of policy proposals there, or if you might be able to answer a few questions for a story that I am hoping to finish within the two weeks:

- 1) Why did BP advance a cap and trade proposal after the failure of I-1631?
- 2) In early 2018, why did BP decide not to support Gov. Inslee's legislative proposal for a carbon tax, after the company had privately indicated its support for a price on carbon?
- 3) Taken all together, including BP's opposition to the two carbon pricing referendums in Washington state in 2016 and 2018, it might look to an observer as if BP is always voicing support for carbon pricing, and yet never getting behind any measure that has a chance of success. How would you respond to the critique that BP's stance on pricing is more show than substance?
- 4) Some analysts who have given a lot of thought to this issue argue that oil companies simply can't be expected to get behind strong climate policy; any policy that is robust enough to force deep cuts in carbon emissions would devalue companies' assets and investments dramatically. They argue that the policies that the oil industry has supported-California's cap-and-trade extension, for instance--are too weak to force deep cuts. How would you respond to the argument that there's an inherent conflict for BP and other oil companies when it comes to climate policy?

I know these questions involve some looking back, but we think what happened in Washington state is relevant to the policy discussion on the national level, as now numerous different carbon tax proposals have been introduced in Congress--and I know BP also is engaged in that process through the Climate Leadership Council.

Please let me know if you might be able to talk on these issues sometime within the next week or so!

Best,

Marianne Lavelle

reporter and writer, politics

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