

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

February 24, 2012

Joseph Bast, President
The Heartland Institute
One South Wacker #2740
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Bast:

I write to request that you provide me with information regarding the internal documents¹ from your organization that were obtained last week by the news media. These documents appear to indicate that The Heartland Institute is receiving large donations from corporations for the direct purpose of discrediting the mainstream science of climate change and has planned to engage in a campaign to undermine the teaching of well-established science at our public schools.

These documents include:

1. The Heartland Institute 2012 Proposed Budget – Summary of the 2012 budget plan including a list of ten projects for 2012 and their associated costs as well as list of expenses per personnel
2. The Heartland Institute 2012 Fundraising Plan – Summary of fundraising plan with a detailed description of projects for 2012 as well as past and future donors
3. Notice of Regular Meeting of Directors of The Heartland Institute
4. Board of Directors of The Heartland Institute
5. 2010 IRS Form 990 – Verification of taxable income for The Heartland Institute
6. Agenda for the January 17, 2012 Regular Meeting of Directors of The Heartland Institute
7. Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Directors of The Heartland Institute on October 8, 2011 including an Appendix, Motion, Financial Report, Actual Revenue versus Budget, and Actual Spending versus Budget
8. 2012 Heartland Climate Strategy – Summary of information presented in the Fundraising Plan and Proposed Budget

The document entitled “2012 Heartland Climate Strategy” has been designated as a fake by The Heartland Institute, according to an Associated Press (AP) article.² The Heartland Institute has made no assertions regarding the veracity of the other documents, but did admit on February 15³ that these six documents were sent by a Heartland staff person to “an unknown person” posing as a Heartland board member. On February 22, Politico reported that the Heartland Institute has confirmed a key component of the “2012 Heartland Climate Strategy,” specifically that Heartland “is developing a new school

¹ These documents are also appended to this letter and can also be found at <http://www.desmogblog.com/heartland-institute-exposed-internal-documents-unmask-heart-climate-denial-machine>

² Seth Borenstein, “INFLUENCE GAME: Leaks show group's climate efforts” Associated Press, February 17, 2012.

³ Bill Dedman, Leaked: a plan to teach climate change skepticism in schools”, *msnbc.com*, February 15, 2012.

curriculum that urges teachers to question global warming.”⁴ The AP also confirmed from David Wojick, who was identified in the released documents, that “the document was accurate about his project to put curriculum materials in schools that promote climate skepticism.”⁵

Significant details included in the “2012 Heartland Climate Strategy,” such as providing \$388,000 in 2011 to scientists who write and speak on behalf of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), a group that questions the scientific basis of global warming, also appear in The Heartland Institute’s Fundraising Plan and Proposed Budget. In fact, every item listed in the 2012 Heartland Climate Strategy appears to be corroborated by these other two documents. Additionally, the AP has done more work to verify the validity of content outlined in the leaked documents and notes that “no one the AP contacted said the budget or fundraising documents mentioning them were incorrect.”

So that Members of Congress and the public can understand more fully the nature of The Heartland Institute’s efforts to influence public understanding of generally accepted scientific truth, I request that you respond to the following requests for information no later than Friday March 16, 2012:

Please indicate, for each documents appended to this letter, whether:

- a) The document is an authentic Heartland Institute document or draft document;
- b) If the document is not an authentic Heartland Institute document or draft document, please identify and fully describe the inaccuracies the document or draft document contains. If a different authentic Heartland Institute document or draft document exists that describes the applicable subject matter, please provide a copy of the authentic document(s) or draft document(s); and,
- c) If the document or draft document has been changed by The Heartland Institute since it was obtained by the individual who provided it to the media, please provide a copy of the latest version.

As you indicated to the Wall Street Journal, the documents represent “an open plan that we write about all the time, quote on our website, put it in newsletters to our donors.”⁶ Given the openness you have about the Heartland Institute’s plan, I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey

⁴ Darren Samuelsohn, “Heartland president details curriculum questioning climate science” *Politico*, February 22, 2012.

⁵ Seth Borenstein, “INFLUENCE GAME: Leaks show group's climate efforts” Associated Press, February 17, 2012.

⁶ Darren Samuelsohn, “Heartland president details curriculum questioning climate science” *Politico*, February 22, 2012.