

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2023

Mr. Bruce Nilles  
Executive Director  
Climate Imperative Foundation  
98 Battery Street, Suite 202  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Nilles:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability—which has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X—and the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation—which has jurisdiction over the Consumer Product Safety Commission (“CPSC”)—we write regarding the Climate Imperative Foundation’s (“CIF”) role in the CPSC’s recent efforts to impose a de facto ban on gas stoves. On March 16, 2023, one of us—Ranking Member Cruz—wrote to CIF requesting information and documents about this matter. Your organization, however, has refused to substantively answer most of those requests.

Although CIF’s March 30 response hardly mentions gas stoves, their elimination has long been your mission. In a 2019 *New York Times* opinion piece, you told the American people that their “gas stove has to go.”<sup>1</sup> You claimed that “electrifying everything” and doing away with gas stoves was necessary in order “to meet our climate goals.” And, as detailed in the March 16 letter from Ranking Member Cruz, CIF has worked hand-in-hand with the Biden administration towards eliminating gas stoves. As even your March 30 letter admitted, CIF staff “have communicated with the White House climate office regarding its work on building electrification.” No doubt then CIF is pleased to see the CPSC take the necessary first step toward a ban, having recently issued a Request for Information “on chronic hazards associated with gas ranges and proposed solutions.”<sup>2</sup>

Rather than answering in full the March 16 request for information and documents about your group’s efforts to ban gas stoves, CIF responded with only a general, and vague, narrative regarding CIF’s funding of research “to advance equitable climate solutions.” Nothing in CIF’s March 30 letter answered the specific questions about what your group has been doing to push for the government-mandated elimination of gas stoves.

---

<sup>1</sup> Justin Gilles and Bruce Nilles, *Your Gas Stove Is Bad for You and the Planet: To help solve the climate crisis, we need to electrify everything*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (May 1, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/01/opinion/climate-change-gas-electricity.html>.

<sup>2</sup> CPSC, *Request for Information on Chronic Hazards Associated With Gas Ranges and Proposed Solutions* (Mar. 7, 2023), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/07/2023-04554/request-for-information-on-chronic-hazards-associated-with-gas-ranges-and-proposed-solutions>.

Such lack of transparency with Congress and the American public is unacceptable. We therefore expect a complete written response to the requests for information and documents made in the March 16 letter no later than May 10, 2023. For your reference, these requests are included as an appendix to this letter. Further, this letter serves as a reminder to preserve any and all documents and information, including e-mails, text messages, internal message system messages, calls, logs of meetings, and internal memoranda, responsive to the requests in the March 16, 2023 letter.

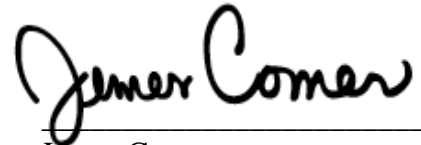
We look forward to your forthcoming prompt and complete response.

Sincerely,



---

Ted Cruz  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation



---

James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and  
Accountability

Encl: Requests for Information and Documents from March 16, 2023 Letter

## **Requests for Information and Documents from March 16, 2023 Letter**

1. State whether any employee, director, or executive of CIF, or any member of its advisory council, including Wang Li, discussed gas stoves or ranges with any person at CPSC, including Commissioner Trumka and his staff. If so, please: (i) provide a list of all persons who took part in each discussion, (ii) identify the dates and manner of each discussion, and (iii) provide all documents and communications regarding the discussion(s).
  
2. State whether any employee, director, or executive of CIF, or any member of its advisory council, including Wang Li, discussed CPSC's work, or potential work, related to gas stoves or ranges with anyone in the White House or anyone else in the administration. If so, please: (i) provide a list of all persons who took part in each discussion, (ii) identify the dates and manner of each discussion, and (iii) provide all documents and communications regarding the discussion(s).
  
3. On October 6, 2022, *Consumer Reports* published an article titled, "Is Your Gas Range a Health Risk?" (the "October 2022 article"). An editor's note at the bottom of the article states: "This project was funded in part with a grant from the Climate Imperative Foundation." Your 2021 IRS 990 form states that you gave \$375,000 to *Consumer Reports*.
  - a) Confirm that the \$375,000 identified in your 2021 IRS 990 form was used to fund work related to the October 2022 article. Identify the precise purpose(s) for which you directed that money be used.
  
  - b) State whether you are aware that *Consumer Reports* used the \$375,000 you gave for anything other than work related to the October 2022 article. If so, identify the additional ways you believe that *Consumer Reports* may have utilized that money. Explain your basis for that understanding.
  
  - c) Identify whether CIF first approached *Consumer Reports* about the October 2022 article or *Consumer Reports* first approached CIF. Either way, identify when the first conversation regarding any work related to what was to become the October 2022 article (including testing, research, concerns about gas stoves, etc.) took place and who was involved in those conversations.
  
  - d) Provide any grants, contracts, or other agreements, including informal email communications, concerning CIF's payment of \$375,000 to *Consumer Reports*.
  
4. Describe CIF's role in publishing the October 2022 article. In your description, please include responses to the following questions:
  - a) Did CIF review any research or testing performed by *Consumer Reports*?

- b) Was CIF involved in the research or testing? If so, identify who was involved and what activities they undertook.
  - c) Did CIF review any drafts of the article? If so, identify when CIF reviewed those drafts and who at CIF reviewed them.
  - d) State whether CIF suggested any edits to that article. If so, were those edits reflected in the final article? Identify who at CIF was involved in editing the October 2022 article.
  - e) Did CIF direct how the testing or research referenced in the article was conducted in any way? Did it participate in the testing or research? If so, identify who was involved in the testing or research.
  - f) Did *Consumer Reports* seek CIF's approval of the *Consumer Reports* study prior to publication?
  - g) Did CIF give *Consumer Reports* approval of the article prior to its publication?
  - h) Was *Consumer Reports* required to receive approval from CIF before publishing the article?
5. State whether CIF provided any funding, support, or otherwise had any involvement at all in the following articles: (1) the January 12, 2023 *Consumer Reports* article titled, "Induction Cooktops and Ranges Are So Good You May Not Miss Your Gas Appliance," (2) the June 22, 2022 *Consumer Reports* article titled, "Pros and Cons of Induction Cooktops and Ranges," and (3) the August 12, 2022 *Consumer Reports* article titled, "What the Inflation Reduction Act Could Mean for Your Next Appliance Purchase." If so, describe CIF's involvement in those articles. In your description, please include the following information:
- (i) the amount of money or describe the type of support,
  - (ii) the date on which it was provided,
  - (iii) the purpose for which it was provided, and
  - (iv) any studies, reports, articles, or any other publications that were generated through that funding or support.
6. State whether CIF has ever provided any additional money or support (*i.e.*, goods or services) to *Consumer Reports* beyond the \$375,000 for work related to the October 2022 article or the articles listed in Question No. 5. Please answer with a "yes" or "no" before providing any further response. For all other monies or support provided to *Consumer Reports*:
- (i) identify the amount of money or describe the type of support,
  - (ii) identify the date on which it was provided,
  - (iii) state the purpose for which it was provided, and

- (iv) identify any studies, reports, articles, or any other publications that were generated through that funding or support.
7. In 2021, CIF gave \$300,000 to the United States Public Interest Research Group (“U.S. PIRG”) Education Fund. During a December 2022 webinar hosted by U.S. PIRG, Commissioner Trumka said that “we need to be talking about regulating gas stoves, whether that is drastically improving emissions, *or banning gas stoves entirely*. And I think we ought to keep that possibility of a ban in mind as we follow along, because it’s a powerful tool in our toolbox [and] *it’s a real possibility.*” (emphases added).
- a) Please confirm that you donated \$300,000 to U.S. PIRG in 2021.
  - b) Please identify the precise purpose(s) for which you directed that money be used.
  - c) Please state any role that CIF had in the December 2022 U.S. PIRG webinar.
8. CIF gave \$942,000 and \$1,100,000 to the Rocky Mountain Institute in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Please state the purpose for which these funds were provided. Provide any grants, contracts, or other agreements, including informal email communications, related to CIF’s payments of these funds to Rocky Mountain Institute.
9. CIF gave \$230,000 to the NYU School of Law in 2021 for “US buildings initiative.” Please identify whether these funds were used to help finance the April 11, 2022 “Emissions in the Kitchen” report. If not, please describe in detail the purpose of this grant.
10. State whether CIF has provided any money or support (*i.e.* goods or services) to any other entities related to research, publications, or advocacy concerning gas stoves. Please answer with a “yes” or “no” before providing any further response. For all other monies or support provided to an entity:
- (i) identify the recipient,
  - (ii) identify the amount of money or describe the type of support,
  - (iii) identify the date on which it was provided,
  - (iv) state the purpose for which it was provided and
  - (v) identify any studies, reports, articles, or any other publications that were generated through that funding or support.