

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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April 28, 2026

Ms. Jordan Diamond
President
Environmental Law Institute
c/o Susanne Sachsman Grooms
Cooley LLP
1299 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Diamond:

On August 29, 2025, the Committee on the Judiciary wrote to Environmental Law Institute (ELI) requesting documents and information regarding allegations of improper attempts by litigants to influence federal judges.¹ We requested information related to credible reports that ELI and its Climate Judiciary Project (CJP) had undertaken efforts to influence judges who potentially may be presiding over lawsuits related to alleged climate change.² On September 12, 2025, your counsel responded that “ELI welcomes the opportunity to respond to your requests and to explain the educational programs and materials available through CJP.”³ ELI’s compliance with our oversight to date, however, has been inadequate. The Committee may be forced to resort to compulsory process to obtain your full cooperation.

In the more than seven months since our request, ELI has produced just 1,432 pages of documents, of which 251 pages were from a single court filing. ELI has identified 121 federal judges in attendance at only seven of the 24 acknowledged training events in which ELI and CJP have been involved.⁴ Even for the material that ELI has produced, there are significant deficiencies in ELI’s compliance with our oversight.

¹ Letter from Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al., to Jordan Diamond, President, Environmental Law Institute (Aug. 29, 2025).

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Susanne Sachsman Grooms, Counsel for the Environmental Law Institute, to Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al. (Sept. 12, 2025).

⁴ It is unclear whether there have been more than 24 training events with federal judges in attendance based on the materials provided to date, as no information has been provided regarding 2022, 2023, 2025, or 2026, nor have you confirmed the lists of events for 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2024, are exhaustive.

- The Committee requested that ELI produce records of expenses paid to judges for attendance at its training programs.⁵ ELI has not produced any such records.
- The Committee requested all transcripts and video recordings of training sessions.⁶ ELI has produced none, even though items on ELI’s member-only website suggest that these documents exist.⁷ In addition, while your response letters have identified at least 24 separate training events and engagements,⁸ ELI has produced only 15 slide decks for these sessions.⁹
- The Committee requested all communications relating to “curricula, training, and/or presentations” and “presentations or training materials,” as required in our August 29 letter.¹⁰ ELI has produced none. However, public reporting and documents uncovered by the Committee during its investigation suggest that ELI, CJP, and one or more of its “experts” may have coordinated with law firms engaged in climate litigation on judicial training materials.¹¹ Public reports show that Ann Carlson, a past member of ELI’s board, has consulted for firms involved in climate change litigation,¹² and Michael Burger, a frequent collaborator with ELI,¹³ is associated with a law firm involved in climate change litigation.¹⁴ Further, it appears that ELI and firms involved in climate change litigation received significant amounts of funding from the same source—the New Venture Fund.¹⁵ ELI also thanked its “anonymous reviewers” on

⁵ *Supra* note 1.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Become a Member, ENV’T L. INST., <https://www.eli.org/become-a-member> (last visited Apr. 26, 2026) (outlining the archive materials available to members).

⁸ Letter from Susanne Sachsman Grooms, Counsel for the Environmental Law Institute, to Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al. (March 20, 2026); Letter from Susanne Sachsman Grooms, Counsel for the Environmental Law Institute to Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al. (Apr. 10, 2026); Letter from Susanne Sachsman Grooms, *supra* note 3. It is unclear whether there have been more than 24 training events with federal judges in attendance based on the materials provided to date, as no information has been provided regarding 2022, 2023, 2025, or 2026, nor have you confirmed the lists of events for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2024, are exhaustive.

⁹ See Documents Produced by Environmental Law Institute to H. Comm. on the Judiciary.

¹⁰ *Supra* note 1.

¹¹ Kamden Mulder, *Climate Activists Are Influencing Judges to Rule In Their Favor Using this ‘Educational’ Program*, NATIONAL REVIEW (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/climate-activists-are-influencing-judges-to-rule-in-their-favor-using-this-educational-program/>; see, e.g., Michael Gerrard & John Dernbach, *Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States* ii (Environmental Law Institute 2019), (“Each chapter was peer-reviewed by several people. We thank the following peer reviewers for their invaluable assistance: . . . David Bookbinder”).

¹² Thomas Catenacci, *Left-Wing Dark Money Giant Funds Dem Lawsuits Against Oil Companies-and Trainings for Judges on How to Handle Those Cases*, WASH. FREE BEACON (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://freebeacon.com/energy/left-wing-dark-money-giant-funds-democrats-lawsuits-against-oil-companies-it-also-funds-trainings-for-judges-overseeing-those-same-cases/>.

¹³ See, e.g., *Monthly Climate Change Briefing: May 2024*, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE, <https://www.eli.org/events/monthly-climate-change-briefing-may-2024> (last visited Feb. 20, 2026).

¹⁴ *Meet Our Team*, SHER EDLING, <https://www.sheredling.com/team/> (last visited Feb. 20, 2026).

¹⁵ 2024 Internal Revenue Service Form 990: Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, The New Venture Fund (Nov. 11, 2024), <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/205806345/202513159349305596/full>.

the cover pages of its judicial training materials, which indicates that a large number of communications regarding the judicial training materials exist.¹⁶ All such materials, including communications with Ann Carlson, Michael Burger, and the New Venture Fund, are responsive to the Committee's request and must be produced.

- ELI's responses to our request for documents sufficient to identify judicial attendees and presenters at all ELI and CJP affiliated programming from April 2019 to the present also appears deficient. ELI has restricted the information produced to only programs affiliated with the FJC and the National Judicial College (NJC) that occurred between 2019 and 2021.¹⁷ The Committee has not limited its request in this manner or agreed to ELI's artificial scope limitations. Accordingly, this request remains outstanding.


The deficiencies in your compliance have been raised in numerous calls over the past several months. As the phone calls have been insufficient to obtain your compliance, we reiterate the requests in our August 29, 2025, letter and expect your prompt compliance by May 5, 2026. Please be advised that the Committee may be forced to resort to compulsory process if these requests remain outstanding.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Darrell Issa
Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property, Artificial Intelligence
and the Internet

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Hank Johnson, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet

¹⁶ See, e.g., Climate Judiciary Project, ENV'T L. INST., *What is Causing Climate Change?* (on file with the Committee) ("We are also grateful for the contributions of the anonymous peer reviewers of this module"); Climate Judiciary Project, ENV'T L. INST., *Overview of Climate Litigation* (on file with the Committee) ("We are also grateful for the contributions of the anonymous peer reviewers of this module"); Climate Judiciary Project, ENV'T L. INST., *Risks and Costs of Climate Change* (on file with the Committee) ("We are also grateful for the contributions of the anonymous peer reviewers of this module").

¹⁷ Letter from Susanne Sachsman Grooms, Counsel for the Environmental Law Institute, to Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al. (Oct. 31, 2025); Letter from Susanne Sachsman Grooms, Counsel for the Environmental Law Institute, to Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al. (March 20, 2026); Letter from Susanne Sachsman Grooms, Counsel for the Environmental Law Institute to Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al. (Apr. 10, 2026).