

**Remarks of Attorney General Maura Healey
Climate Change Press Conference in New York**

As Prepared for Delivery

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Good afternoon. I'm delighted to be here in New York with AG Schneiderman, former Vice President Gore and with our fantastic colleagues.

As Attorneys General, we have a lot on our plates. Addressing the epidemics of opiate abuse and gun violence that are ravaging many of our communities. Protecting the economic security of hard-working families. Making sure that people have access to the health care they need.

But in my view, there are few things we need to worry about more than climate change, which poses threats to our very existence.

We have a moral obligation to act.

That's why we're here today.

The science—and we do believe in science in the great state of Massachusetts—is telling us we're not moving fast enough.

February 2016 was likely the hottest month in thousands of years.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which monitors the health of our oceans and atmosphere, believes our greenhouse gas emissions may lead us to a “point of no return,” with potentially catastrophic global warming consequences by 2042.

The science also shows that those consequences would likely include devastating storms (stronger than any we've seen before), the disintegration of large parts of our polar ice caps, and rising oceans that could begin drowning our coastal cities by the end of this century.

Climate change is, and for many years has been, a matter of extreme urgency, but unfortunately it is only recently that that this problem has begun to be met by equally urgent action.

Part of the problem has been one of public perception--and it appears that certain companies may not have told the whole story, leading many to doubt whether climate change is real, and to misunderstand the catastrophic nature of its impacts.

Fossil fuel companies that deceived investors and consumers about the dangers of climate change should be held accountable. That's why we have joined in investigating Exxon Mobil.

We can all see today the troubling disconnect between what Exxon knew and what the company shared with the public regarding the consequences of burning the fuel it markets.

We are here before you are all committed to combatting climate change and to holding accountable those who have misled the public.

The states represented here today have long been working to sound the alarm, to put smart policies in place to speed our transition to a clean energy future, and to stop power plants from emitting millions of tons of dangerous global warming pollution into our air.

In Massachusetts, that's been really good not just for our environment but for our economy. Our economy has *grown* while we've reduced greenhouse gas emissions and boosted clean power and efficiency.

We're now home to an \$11 billion clean energy industry that employs nearly 100,000 people.

Last year, clean energy accounted for 15 percent of New England's power production.

Our energy efficiency programs have delivered \$12.5 billion in benefits since 2008 and are expected to provide another \$8 billion over the next three years.

And for the last five years, Massachusetts has been ranked No. 1 in the country for energy efficiency.

So, we're making progress.

But none of us can do it alone. That's why we're here.

Look, we have so much more work to do. But we'll be doing it together. We'll be working as quickly and as aggressively as we can to fight climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance clean energy.

Because this isn't an abstract problem that might occur in the distant future. This is about protecting the world in which we'll grow old, and the world our children will inhabit.

As Attorneys General, this is among our most pressing issues.

So I thank AG Schneiderman for gathering us here today, and I thank my fellow Attorneys General for their partnership.