

Senator right about 'big oil'

Regarding "Big Oil learned lessons in deceit from Big Tobacco" (Other Views, June 3):

There are two points readers may have missed when reading the column by U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., about Big Oil's denial of climate change.

First, Whitehouse isn't just a politician unhappy about Republican denials of climate change's causes and dangers. He is a former attorney general for Rhode Island and a former U.S. Attorney. His analysis of what constitutes enough evidence of criminal racketeering is more than political posturing.

Second, Big Oil's deception seems to be continuing as six international companies recently published a statement about climate change and the need for carbon tax legislation, even though those same companies continue to pursue Arctic drilling schemes, fund climate change deniers in Congress and fail to fund carbon tax advocacy.

Also, why did America's three biggest oil companies not sign the letter with their international counterparts? Why did Exxon's CEO indicate the international six are "faking it" and why does Exxon's website say a carbon tax is the best policy for our government to pursue while still funding congressional deniers?

There are so many questions that need answers. Readers should ask U.S. Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, both D-N.J., to work with Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, both D-Mass., to get answers to these questions.

Maybe then Whitehouse will know if RICO charges are appropriate.
Judy Weiss

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