

**From:** [Carvalho, George \(Whitehouse\)](#)  
**To:** [Cardoza, Katie](#)  
**Subject:** Judge Montalbano Climate conference  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024 5:02:32 PM  
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Katie, below is a summary of Senator Whitehouse's remarks for Friday. Thank you.

Across the United States, municipalities, cities, and states are bringing civil actions against the fossil fuel industry to hold it accountable for years of disinformation on the effect of its products on climate change. Eight states – Vermont, Connecticut, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, California, New Jersey, Delaware – plus DC and Puerto Rico have filed and cities and municipalities include New York, Chicago, the Bay Area, Baltimore, Boulder, Maui, Honolulu, San Mateo County, and Annapolis.

These lawsuits involve climate fraud/consumer protection, climate damages, civil racketeering and some combination of these. None of these cases have yet been tried to verdict.

The United States has not yet brought any federal actions against the fossil fuel industry.

House Oversight Committee Ranking Member Rep. Jamie Raskin and I have called on the Department of Justice to investigate Big Oil for its disinformation campaign to mislead the public about the climate effects of fossil fuels and obstruct climate action. We also issued a joint staff report and had a hearing in my Senate Budget Committee. In 2023, that investigation became a joint investigation between our Committees, and in April of this year, we unveiled thousands of pages of damning new documents that exposed the fossil fuel industry's ongoing efforts to deceive the public and block climate action.

While municipalities, states, and the federal government have an important role to play in litigation to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable, they are not the only relevant actors here—and we have already seen promising decisions in cases brought by young environmental activists alleging constitutional rights to healthy environment.