

**From:** "Jamie Henn" <[jamie@fossilfree.media](mailto:jamie@fossilfree.media)>  
**Subject:** Congress Threatens to Subpoena FTI Consulting Over Fossil Fuel Work  
**Date:** August 17, 2022 at 5:34:45 PM EDT  
**To:**

Hi all,

I wanted to make sure you got this press release we're sending out from Clean Creatives about the news that the House will subpoena FTI Consulting unless the firm hands over key documents relating to their fossil fuel work within seven days.

It's a major escalation in the Congressional push to hold ad agencies and PR companies accountable for spreading climate disinformation.

Thanks!  
Jamie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 17, 2022  
Contact: Jamie Henn, [jamie@fossilfree.media](mailto:jamie@fossilfree.media), 415-601-9337

**Congress Threatens to Subpoena FTI Consulting Over Fossil  
Fuel Work**

**US House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations informs FTI Consulting that a subpoena will be issued in 7 days unless document requests are met.**

Washington, DC – Today the US House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations notified communications and consulting firm FTI Consulting that they would be issuing a subpoena to compel the agency's cooperation with the subcommittee's ongoing investigation into fossil fuel disinformation, unless the agency produces requested documents within 7 days.

The letter reads, in part:

*"On June 12, 2022, the House Committee on Natural Resources ("Committee") sent FTI Consulting ("FTI") a letter requesting materials relating to its public relations work on behalf of fossil fuel industry interests. In the subsequent weeks, our staff has had multiple conversations with FTI's representation in a good-faith effort to accommodate any reasonable concerns FTI might have regarding this request. Despite such efforts, summarized below, FTI has refused to produce responsive documents, the identities of relevant clients, or even the number of relevant clients FTI served during the responsive period."*

The full letter, signed by Natural Resources Committee Chair Raúl M. Grijalva and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chair Katie Porter is available [here](#).

FTI Consulting has run some of the most pernicious disinformation efforts for the fossil fuel industry, running numerous astroturf front groups, creating fake social media accounts, monitoring environmental activists, and lobbying against climate action.

Clean Creatives is a leading campaign to end the advertising and PR industry's work with fossil fuel companies. Executive Director Duncan Meisel said:

*"FTI Consulting is responsible for some of the most misleading fossil fuel campaigns in operation today. FTI's refusal to cooperate with this Congressional inquiry shows that they have something to hide, which will reveal the dangerous ways agencies like theirs have promoted fossil fuel greenwash and misinformation. The public deserves to know the ways in which agencies have polluted the debate about climate change, and FTI's resistance to participate in this discussion will do damage to their reputation, and the reputation of the communications industry they are a part of."*

*FTI may be the first communications agency to be subpoenaed in an investigation such as this one, but they will not be the last - unless the PR and ad industry cleans up its act, and stops working for the fossil fuel industry"*

###

Clean Creatives is a not-for-profit industry pressure campaign created to expose the link between advertising and PR agencies and climate misinformation. Aiming to provide a solution for the industry, Clean Creatives gives agencies and employees a resource to hold their companies and business partners accountable to create a more sustainable future.

700+ creatives and 350+ agencies worldwide have signed the Clean Creatives pledge to decline future contracts with the fossil fuel industry or agencies that retain fossil fuel clients.

Clean Creatives is increasing media pressure and scrutiny on Ad and PR agencies to drop their fossil fuel contracts (Teen Vogue). Campaigns include an open letter released with the Union of Concerned Scientists that detail why 450 scientists who are calling on PR and creative agencies to drop fossil-fuel clients (Washington Post), exposing Edelman's work with Exxon and Shell (NY Times), and an Awards Show designed to expose greenwashing in the industry (Adweek).

Clean Creatives Website: [cleancreatives.org](http://cleancreatives.org)

Clean Creatives Twitter: [@CleanCreatives](https://twitter.com/CleanCreatives)

Clean Creatives Instagram: [@clean\\_creatives](https://www.instagram.com/clean_creatives)

Clean Creatives Director Duncan Meisel Twitter: [@duncanwrites](https://twitter.com/duncanwrites)

**From:** Gressard, Lindsay <Lindsay.Gressard@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:28:48 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**Subject:** Chair Grijalva, Rep. Porter Send Second Request Letter to Fossil Fuel Public Relations Firm FTI Consulting, Threaten Subpoena



NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE  
CHAIR RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

**August 17, 2022**

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## Chair Grijalva, Rep. Porter Send Second Request Letter to Fossil Fuel Public Relations Firm FTI Consulting, Threaten Subpoena

*Washington, D.C. – Washington, D.C.* – Natural Resources Committee Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chair Katie Porter (D-Calif.) today sent a [second letter](#) to oil and gas public relations (PR) firm FTI Consulting requesting any of the firm's PR work, marketing, or influence campaigns for oil, gas, and coal companies and trade groups. The lawmakers sent the [first request letter](#) to FTI Consulting in June, more than eight weeks ago, along with four other public relations firms and the American Petroleum Institute, a fossil fuel trade group. Despite ample good-faith efforts by Committee staff to accommodate FTI Consulting's concerns in providing documents, the firm has not yet turned over any documents, or even basic information about their fossil fuel clients, to the Committee.

Chair Grijalva and Rep. Porter's full letter is available here: <https://bit.ly/3PxDeEG>

As the lawmakers describe in the letter, FTI Consulting has obstructed, delayed, and been otherwise uncooperative in the Committee's legitimate oversight efforts. The firm has asserted that their clients' information is protected by various privileges or confidentiality agreements, but

has refused to adequately describe or enumerate these exact privileges. They also claim that many of these yet-unnamed clients refused to consent to disclosure.

**...more than six weeks after the initial consultation with Committee staff, FTI represented that “50 percent” of an undisclosed number of unnamed clients had responded and refused to consent to disclosure. FTI again asserted that the basis for withholding was confidentiality agreements with the clients, with some smaller (and undescribed) subset also ostensibly covered by attorney-client privilege. FTI also again claimed to have collected all relevant contracts but continued to refuse to provide even the total number of responsive clients or any of their identities.**

Of note, confidentiality concerns are a consideration in congressional oversight efforts, but do not preclude Congress from receiving requested documents. Chair Grijalva and Rep. Porter indicated in the letter that they will begin the process of issuing a subpoena if FTI Consulting does not provide the requested documents by Aug. 12 at 5:00 p.m.

In November 2020, extensive investigative reporting by [\*The New York Times\*](#) uncovered a host of nefarious fossil fuel public campaign efforts funded by FTI Consulting, including creating fake grassroots activist groups advocating for “mom-and-pop investors, fabricating social media personas to monitor environmental activists, and staffing news sites to publish more pro-industry, and even industry-directed, content.

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Stay in touch with Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee  
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