FOSSIL BANKS NO THANKS

JAMIE DIMON
JPMORGAN CHASE
NEW YORK
USA

SUBJECT: YOUR BANK'S FUTURE RELATION TO THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY. 16 OCTOBER 2018

Dear Mr. Dimon,

We, 120 undersigned organisations from 34 countries, are writing to you today to seek clarity and action from your bank on a matter that is of great concern to us, namely your ongoing support for the fossil fuel industry.[1] More specifically, we seek to understand what concrete strategy your bank will put in place in the coming decade to disentangle itself from this industry, which is at the heart of the current climate crisis.

We pose this question to you with great urgency, as we all live in countries that are now impacted in one way or the other by accelerating climate change: affected by heat waves, droughts and water shortages, by excessive rainfall and floods, by cold waves and blizzards, by hurricanes and hail storms, by failing crops and burning forests, by steadily rising sea levels and warming oceans, by the extinction of plant and animal species, by creeping desertification, by forced migration and other climate related disruptions of community and livelihood, and yes, also by deaths directly linked to a rapidly changing climate.

PREVENTING CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 aims to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, aiming for 1.5 degrees Celsius, to prevent the worst impacts of climate change from unfolding. Yet the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report makes clear that 2 degrees of warming is not a safe limit, and we must make all efforts to avoid exceeding the lower limit of 1.5 degrees stated in the Agreement. That extra half a degree is the difference between widespread human suffering, and a fighting chance of adaptation.[2] Unless drastic and urgent additional action is taken by state, civil society *and* private sector actors we are inexorably heading towards a 3 or even 4 degrees average temperature rise, with catastrophic consequences.

To prevent this scenario from unfolding requires that the root cause of climate change - the continued exploration, extraction, and subsequent burning of coal, oil and gas - is decisively dealt with. To have a reasonable chance of limiting warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, carbon budgets calculated by the IPCC indicate that only a further 760 gigatons of CO2 can still be released into the atmosphere.[3] This is the global

[1] With 'fossil fuel industry' we refer to all coal mining, the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas reserves anywhere in the world, all fossil fuel-based energy production, and all infrastructure that exists to bring fossil fuels to market, while acknowledging that not all fossil fuels are used for energy production

[2] The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2018: Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5 °C

[3] IPCC 5th Assessment Synthesis Report estimated that the remaining global CO2 budget for a 66% probability of staying within 2 degrees Celsius of temperature rise was 1,000 Gt at the end of 2011. We subtract emissions that have occurred from 2012 through 2017 to arrive at 760 Gt remaining at the start of 2018. Sources: IPCC, Climate Change 2014, Synthesis Report, Table 2.2, p. 64, http://ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_All_Topics.pdf; Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center / Global Carbon Project, 2016 Budget v1.0, http://cdiac.ornl.gov/GCP/; Corinne le Quéré et al, "Global Carbon Budget 2017," Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 10, 2018, pp. 429-430, https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-10-405-2018.

carbon budget aligned with the upper limit of the Paris Agreement. Subsequent analysis has found that currently operating oil and gas fields and coal mines around the world already contain 940 gigatons of potential CO2 – far more than the world can afford to burn.[4] The conclusions are clear: the expansion of the fossil fuel industry must be brought to an immediate stop, and many currently operating facilities must be closed ahead of schedule.

THE ROLE OF JPMORGAN CHASE

This brings us to the current role of JPMorgan Chase as a major financier of the fossil fuel industry.

According to our data, in the period from 2015 to 2017 JPMorgan Chase provided US$26.118 billion in support for the fossil fuel industry.[5] This figure is almost certainly an underestimate of your total support for the sector as our research only covered a specific subset of the fossil fuel industry.[6] This level of support ranks your bank amongst the world's largest financiers of the fossil fuel industry.

We have surveyed your bank's current fossil fuel-related investment policies, not only for the sectors covered by our financing data, but for the entire fossil fuel industry, and have presented the results of this survey on our website.[7] It is clear from this that JPMorgan Chase maintains a steady appetite for supporting the industry.

To understand your bank's perspective on its future relationship with the fossil fuel sector in light of the climate emergency, we have also analysed its publicly available policies and positions on climate change. More specifically we have tried to identify whether your bank acknowledges a direct relation between accelerating climate change and the continued burning of fossil fuels.[8]

Although it seems that JPMorgan Chase recognises the threat of climate change and that the coal industry must decline due to this threat, we found no clear recognition by your bank that the continued burning of fossil fuels as a whole is the root cause of climate change, let alone a recognition of the need to phase out the use of fossil fuels in the coming decades.

ACTION REQUIRED

Given the severity of situation, our organisations can no longer accept that banks remain ambiguous about how they see the relation between climate change and the extraction and burning of fossil fuels.

We therefore **demand that, by the 24th UN Climate Summit in December 2018, you publicly clarify your bank's official position on the relation between climate change and the extraction and burning of fossil fuels,** for example by publishing a statement or a briefing on your website.

Assuming that your bank indeed agrees with us that stopping climate breakdown requires bringing the fossil fuel industry to a just and managed decline, we also seek further steps from you on reducing and ultimately terminating your current exposure to the sector. More specifically, we demand that, by the 25th UN Climate Summit in November 2019 at the latest, your bank:

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[4] Greg Muttitt, The Sky's Limit: Why the Paris Climate Goals Require a Managed Decline of Fossil Fuel Production, Oil Change International, September 2016, http://priceofoil.org/content/uploads/2016/09/OCI_the_skys_limit_2016_FINAL_2.pdf.

[5] https://www.fossilbanks.org/?bank=jpmorgan_chase

[6] Financial data covers tar sands oil, Arctic oil, ultra-deepwater oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) export, coal mining, and coal power. Banking on Climate Change: Fossil Fuel Finance Report Card 2018

[7] https://www.fossilbanks.org/?bank=jpmorgan_chase

[8] https://www.jpmorganchase.com/corporate/Corporate-Responsibility/document/jpmc-environmental-and-social-policy-framework.pdf

- publicly commits to immediately end your support for all **new fossil fuel projects**, including exploration, extraction, transportation and power
- publishes a robust plan for phasing out your support for **all existing fossil fuel projects and companies in your portfolio,** on a timetable consistent with what is necessary to meet the Paris targets.

We acknowledge that such a phase out plan needs to be tailored to the specific situation of your bank, and we appreciate the considerable challenges involved in developing such an exit strategy, but we expect a plan with an ambition level commensurate to the scale and urgency of the climate threat faced by us all.

In addition to the steps described above, we welcome all other steps your bank will take to prevent climate breakdown, such as stepping up your financing for renewable energy solutions, but we will judge you first and foremost on your public commitment and strategy to terminate your support for the fossil fuel industry.

With so much at stake for the world, but also for your bank, we trust that you will want to side with us in ending the fossil fuel era by terminating your support for the sector. We assure you we will be relentless in our efforts to get this clear and unequivocal commitment from you.

We look forward to your swift response to this call, either to the email address below or in a public statement as described in the demands above.

Yours sincerely,



Johan Frijns, director BankTrack

On behalf of:

198 methods, United States
350 Climate Movement of Denmark, Denmark
350 New Orleans, United States
350 Philadelphia, United States
350 Seattle, United States
350.org, Global
Aarhus centre in BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Abfinance, Australia
Abibiman Foundation, Ghana
Actares, Switzerland
ActionAid France - Peuples Solidaires, France
Alliance Sud, Switzerland
alofa Tuvalu, France
Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance to Stop Mining), Philippines
Amazon Watch, United States
ARA, Germany

Asociación ambiental e cultural Petón do Lobo, Spain
Asociación Galega Cova Crea, Spain
Attac Austria, Austria
Bankwatch, Czech Republic
Both ENDS, Netherlands
Cadena de Derechos Humanos Honduras, Germany
CDE, Czech Republic
Centar za ekologiju i energiju, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Center for Biological Diversity, United States
Christian Aid, United Kingdom
CLEAN (Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network), Bangladesh
Climáximo, Portugal
CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium
collectif stop GHRM38, France
Conservation Action Trust, India
COPINH, Honduras
Corporate Europe Observatory, Belgium
Counter Balance, Czech Republic
Defenders of Mother Earth-Huichin, United States
DIVEST Kassel, Germany
Earthworks, United States
Eau Secours, Canada
eco-union, Spain
Ecoaction, Ukraine
Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
EKOenergy, Finland
Ekotim, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Environics Trust, India
Facing Finance, Germany
Fair Finance Guide – Sweden, Sweden
Fair Finance Guide International, Netherlands
FairFin, Belgium
Finance & Trade Watch, Austria
Focus, association, Slovenia
FoE Japan, Japan
Food & Water Europe, Belgium
Fossil Free Münster, Germany
fossil-free.ch, Switzerland
Franciscan Action Network, United States
Friends of the Earth Europe, Belgium
Friends of the Earth Finland, Finland
Friends of the Earth Scotland, United Kingdom
Friends of the Earth U.S., United States
Friends of the Landless – Finland, Finland
Fund Our Future, South Africa
Future in Our Hands / Framtiden i våre hender, Norway
Gastivists, International

GegenStroemung / Countercurrent, Germany
Global Witness, United Kingdom
Green America, United States
Green Liberty, Latvia
Harrington Investments, Inc., United States
Idec - Brazilian Institute for Consume Defense, Brazil
Idle No More SF Bay, United States
Inclusive Development International, United States
Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF), India
Indigenous Environmental Network, United States
Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA), Spain
Les Amis de la Terre, France
London Mining Network, United Kingdom
Madrid Resistance - Women's March Madrid, Spain
Mangrove Action Project, United States
Market Forces, International
Mekong Watch, Japan
New Progressive Alliance, United States
No Tar Sands, Europe
NoTAP, Italy
Oil Change International, United States
Operation Noah, United Kingdom
OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, United States
Palestinian BDS (Boycott, Divestment Sanctions) National Committee, Palestine
PAUSE - People of Albany United for Safe Energy, United States
People & Planet, United Kingdom
Popular Education Programme, South Africa
Prakarsa, Indonesia
Rainforest Action Network, United States
Re:Common, Italy
REFEDD, France
Research Institute for Environmental Finance, Japan
Sandbag, United Kingdom
Sierra Club, United States
Sociology -- University of Victoria, Canada
Solutions for Our Climate, Republic of Korea (South Korea)
SOMO, Netherlands
Swiss Working Group on Colombia, Switzerland
The Sunrise Project, Australia
TierrActiva, Peru
Tschoe-RheinEnergie, Germany
U.S. Citizens for Peace & Justice – Rome, Italy
UK Youth Climate Coalition, United Kingdom
Upper Valley Affinity Group, United States
Urgenda, Netherlands
Urgewald, Germany
Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), Indonesia

WECF international, Germany
West Coast Environmental Law, Canada
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), United States
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, United States
Women's March Barcelona, Spain
Women's March Global, United States
Women's March Stockholm, Sweden
Women's March Milan, Italy
Zukunft statt Kohle / Future instead of coal, Switzerland

Endorsing organisations as of October 15. For an up to date list of all organisations endorsing this campaign see www.fossilbanks.org.

For all correspondence about this letter please contact Claire Hamlett, campaign coordinator, at claire@banktrack.org