In an innovative move, Texas (yes, Texas!) has begun allowing driver’s license applicants to make a donation of $1 or more to a fund dedicated to processing the state’s backlog of rape test kits. The program went into effect on January 8 and had already raised over $25,000 by January 25. California does have a rape kit backlog, though it’s hard to find details on the size of the backlog. California already allows donations to select nonprofits via state tax forms—certainly rape kit processing deserves being brought to the public’s attention in a similar way.

**CONTACT** state representatives and officials to encourage legislation/policy offering Californians to make a difference in the way Texans currently can

• **Senator Bill Monning**, State Capitol, Room 313, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4017

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** (Watsonville), State Capitol, PO Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0300, (916) 319-2030

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** (Santa Cruz), State Capitol, PO Box 982049, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 319-2029

• **Governor Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown**, c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

The Government Accountabilty Office (GAO) is launching an investigation into fake comments filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the period leading up to the FCC’s decision to end net neutrality. Several studies have found that thousands of comments (mostly supporting an end to net neutrality) were falsely filed during the comment period under invented identities or the fraudulent use of identities of individuals who did not file comments.

**THANKS** for requesting this investigation to

• **Representative Gregory Meeks** (D-NY), 2234 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3641

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), 2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4741

• **Representative Frank Pallone**, Jr. (D-NJ), 237 Cannon House Office Building, Washingto DC 20515, (202) 225-4671

THANKS for conducting this investigation to

• **Comptroller Gene L. Dorado**, Government Accountability Office, 441 G St. NW, Washington DC 20549, (202) 512-5500

A major Trump donor and climate change denier, Rebekah Mercer, has joined the board of trustees of the American Museum of Natural History, inspiring an outcry from scientists and tenured curators. Boards of Trustees are usually composed of the wealthy, which Mercer certainly is, but she has also deliberately rejected scientific consensus, which makes her an inappropriate trustee for any organization with a scientific mission.

**URGE** that Mercer be removed from the board

• **Lewis W. Bernard**, Chairman, Board of Trustrees, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., NY, NY 10024-5192, Museum contact number (212) 769-5192

• **Ellen V. Futter**, President, Board of Trustrees, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., NY, NY 10024-5192, Museum contact number (212) 769-5192

As reported on business site Fast Company, last June, when the Senate Intelligence committee was questioning Attorney General Jeff Sessions about Russian election interference, John McCain raised the issue of other hacking threats from Russia. McCain noted an ongoing Russian effort to map U.S. telecommunications infrastructure and power grids with a goal of gaining the ability to hack them via a “cyber-weapon.” Russian hackers have, in fact, hacked many centers of US power, including the State Department, White House, Department of Defense, and the email accounts of U.S. officials—and that some of this hacking occurred as early as 2014. So far, hackers have been able to “enter” these power centers, but not to control them. When McCain asked Sessions whether the U.S. had a plan for dealing with this threat before it becomes even graver, Sessions acknowledged that we do not. The current administration continues to downplay the severity of these instances of “non-Election 2016” hacking.

ASK what actions the government has taken since last June and TELL them that not having a plan is inexcusable

• **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

• **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

• **Senator Richard Burr** (R-NC), Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3154

• **Senator Mark Warner** (R-VA), Vice-Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 703 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2023

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Intelligence Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

On January 24, the state of California filed suit against the federal government demanding reinstatement of Obama-era fracking guidelines. The suit alleges that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s move to repeal fracking regulations represents a threat to public health and the environment. Attorney General Xavier Becerra called the repeal “governmental overreach,” observing that “the risks of fracking to our health and to our environment are real ... from the evaporation of toxic chemicals, to low level seismic events, to the contamination of our drinking water.”

**THANKS** for taking action to protect our health and homes to

• **Attorney General Xavier Becerra**, 1300 “I” St., Sacramento, CA 95814-2919, (916) 445-9555

The Huffington Post reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), headed by Scott Pruitt, issued a directive in October 2017 prohibiting anyone receiving funding from the agency from serving on its advisory panels. The Union of Concerned Scientists and Dr. Elizabeth Sheppard, a professor at the University of Washington and member of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee are suing, arguing that the directive amounts to delegitimizing science in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Because in many fields of environmental science, the EPA is essentially the only available source of funding, this directive neatly excises scientists not funded independently (in other words, by corporations), eliminating important voices critical of corporate polluters.

**PROTEST** this exclusion from advisory panels of many of our most knowledgeable scholars and researchers

• **Secretary Ryan Zinke**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

In a recent press conference, Sarah Huckabee Sanders claimed that “poll after poll” says that nobody cares about the Trump-Russia investigation, this despite dozens of reliable polls showing this issue to be of deep concern to Americans. She’s also stated that “Americans are sick and tired of being inundated with ‘Russia fever.’”

**QUESTION** what polls she has been looking at and **TELL** her it’s the cover-up we’re tired of, not the investigation

• **Sarah Huckabee Sanders**, White House Press Secretary, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, White House comment line (202) 456-1111

Despite the fact that one-third of all residents of Puerto Rico are still without power, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that it is ending food and water aid to Puerto Rico.

**DEMAND** that aid be continued to this American territory and to these American citizens until Puerto Rico has fully recovered from Hurricane María

• **William “Brock” Long**, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20472.

• **Senator Rand Paul** (R-KY), Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, 167 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4343

• **Senator Gary Peters** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, 724 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6221

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

In response to the poorly documented and partisan Nunes memo, House Minority Leader Adam Schiff has written his own memo, laying out the inaccuracies and omissions in the Nunes memo.

**THANK** Schiff for producing his memo and defending integrity in government

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), House Minority Leader, 2372 Rauburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4176

**TELL** Nunes to release the Schiff memo now

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Chair House Intelligence and Oxymorons Committee, 1013 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2523

Let Paul Ryan know Devin Nunes is unfit to chair the House Intelligence Committee because of his lack of respect for security and his partisan use of the position.

NOTIFICATIONS to

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

Montpelier High School in Vermont became the first high school in the country to fly a Black Lives Matter Flag, following a student movement to achieve this goal. The school is now receiving a host of complaints and threats.

**THANKS** for leadership and a demonstration of democracy in action

**The Student Body and Administration**, Montpelier High School, 5 High School Dr., Montpelier, VT, 05602, [no phone number because we don’t want to interrupt the day-to-day educational operations]

Jackie Speier’s HR 4396, the ME TOO Congress Act,calls for tough anti-sexual harassment measures that include providing a victims-supportive environmentallowing victims of sexual harassment to get legal counsel paid for by Congress, and mandating that harassers repay the federal government within 90 days for any settlements. Failure to make a repayment would result in garnishing of wages, retirement plans, and, if necessary, Social Security. Jimmy Panetta has signed on as one of 150 co-sponsors.

**THANKS** to

• **Representative Jackie Speier** (D-CA), 2465 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3531

**• Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The Senate voted 98-2 for the Russia Sanctions bill.  The House voted 419-3 for the Russia Sanctions bill. Trump, saying there is no need for action, has now missed two deadlines for implementing the sanctions required by these passed bills, which were to punish Russia for past election meddling and to help stave off future meddling. By not taking the voted-upon sanctions seriously, Trump is aiding and abetting the Russian hack on our Democracy all while the CIA has already said that Russia will interfere with our 2018 elections.

**TELL** Trump to honor the separate powers outlined in the Constitution and to follow through on these bills

• **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

**DEMAND** that Senate and House leadership pressure Trump to follow through on sanctions

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

**ASK** our Congresspeople to keep attention on this issue and to continue pushing for sanctions

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**• Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Consumer product company Kimberly-Clark has announced that it will use its savings from the new tax law to pay for a restructuring program that includes layoffs and plant shutdowns. The company claims it had been considering the restructuring program before Congress approved the tax legislation; nonetheless, this is not the sort of trickle-down we were promised would result from the changes to tax law.

**COMPLAINTS** and **NOTIFICATIONS** that we will no longer be buying their products to

• **Thomas Falk**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kimberley-Clark Corporation

• **Michael Hsu**, President and Chief Operating Officer, Kimberley-Clark Corporation

• **Larry P. Allgaier**, President, North American Consumer Business, Kimberley-Clark Corporations

**ALL** of the above can be reached at

Kimberley-Clark World Headquarters, 351 Phelps Dr., Irving, TX 75038, (972) 281-1200

According to a National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs report, 2017 saw an 87% surge in hate-violence homicides of LGBTQ people, with 52 reported incidents.

**DEMAND** to know what your Congresspeople are doing to respond to this upsurge in hate and violence

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**• Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

In a reprehensible display of hate and disrespect, Representative Paul Gosar called for the arrest of all Dreamers attending Trump’s State of the Union (or “Uniom”) Address.

**CASTIGATION** and **REMINDERS** that Dreamers are among the best of this nation’s people to

• **Representative Paul Gosar** (R-AZ), 2057 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2315

At the end of January, the *Washington Post* reported that the Trump administration plans to seek a 72% cut to the budget of Department of Energy programs related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. The proposal would resultin “sharp reductions in research spending, including an 82 percent cut to research on fuel efficient vehicles, an 82 percent cut on research into bioenergy technologies and a 78 percent cut for solar energy technology research. It would also slash funding for research into alternative energy sources like wind, hydro and geothermal power.” This move comes in the face of new Department of Energy studies showing that more Americans are employed in solar energy than in oil, coal, and gas combined. In fact, solar power employed 43 percent of the Electric Power Generation sector's workforce in 2016, while fossil fuels combined accounted for just 22 percent.

**CONDEMN** the administration’s short-sighted favoring of fossil fuels

• **Rick Perry**, Secretary of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-5000

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441

• **Senator Cory Gardner** (R-CO), Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Energy, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5941

• **Senator Joe Manchin, III**, (D-VA), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Energy, 306 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3954

The *Washington Post* reports that the new head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Mick Mulvaney, has placed new limits on the CFPB’s Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity (OFLEO). Previously OFLEO had power to “force payouts in several prominent cases, including settlements from lenders it alleged had systematically charged minorities higher interest rates than they had for whites.” The CFPB’s new head is removing OFLEO’s responsibility for enforcement and day-to-day oversight of companies and instead is directing the OFLEO to focus on “advocacy, coordination, and education.” Since his appointment, Mulvaney has also dropped a lawsuit against payday lenders and promised to reconsider rules the financial industry finds particularly onerous. Mulvaney also updated the bureau’s mission statement to include addressing “outdated, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome regulations.”

**COMPLAINTS** about this reduction in much-needed consumer protection to

• **Acting Director Mick Mulvaney**, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (855) 411-2371

• **Senator Michael Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6142

• **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 713 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2315

• **Senator Patrick J. Toomey** (R-PA), Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Financial Affairs and Consumer Protection, 248 Russell Senate office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4254

• **Senator Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Financial Affairs and Consumer Protection, 317 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4543

Jeff Sessions’ Justice Department has effectively closed the Office for Access to Justice (OAJ). Technically Sessions needs Congressional approval to close the office but he can—and has—starved it of resources: its acting director has left, its staff is much reduced as is its office space, its programs sidelined. The OAJ attempts to “deliver [court] outcomes that are fair and accessible to all, irrespective of wealth and status.”

**DEMAND** continued action to protect the rights of all Americans through the continued functioning of the OAJ

• **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) has introduces S 2354, the America’s Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States Act (ANTIQUITIES Act) of 2018. This bill, co-sponsored by 18 other Democratic senators, codifies into law the boundaries for over 50 national monuments and validates that only Congress has the authority to reduce or diminish national monuments. Both California Senators have signed on as co-sponsors.

**THANKS** to

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

HR 4508, an immense piece of education legislation, is filled with “First Amendment protections” that would codify discrimination. The bill would allow religious colleges to prohibit same-sex relationships and would let religious student groups deny membership to students not sharing their religion. The bill would also stop colleges from punishing sororities and fraternities that refuse to admit members of the opposite sex. The bill would allow the federal government to withhold funding from colleges that violate these provisions. In December, the bill moved out of committee on a party-line vote, and it now will move to a full vote of the House.

**URGE** our Representative to fight this codification of bigotry within U.S. higher education

**• Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**TELL** our Senators to be ready to fight companion legislation when/if it is introduced in the Senate

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

The Los Angeles Times reports that the Trump administration is threatening to scrap the Desert Renewable Energy Plan (DREP), which covers almost eleven million acres of desert and guides proposed development solar- and wind-energy installations to parcels where they are least likely to cause environmental damage. Scrapping DREP could also expose vulnerable desert ecosystems to off-roading, mining, and grazing.

DEMAND that this destructive and unnecessary weakening of desert protections be abandoned

• **Secretary Ryan Zinke**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441