



**Attorneys General Strange and Paxton Dismiss Lawsuit Against Virgin Islands AG**

*Virgin Islands AG Agrees to Withdraw Unconstitutional Subpoena*

(MONTGOMERY) –Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton dismissed their lawsuit against the Virgin Islands Attorney General Claude Earl Walker, after he agreed to end his improper pursuit of ExxonMobil. Walker, working with a Washington, D.C.-based private law firm on a contingency fee basis, issued an unconstitutional and harassing subpoena for decades of ExxonMobil records.

Attorneys General Strange and Paxton intervened in the dispute between ExxonMobil and Walker because the contingency fee arrangement between Walker and the Washington, D.C.-based private law firm implicated sensitive questions of constitutional due process.

“I join with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in welcoming the decision of the Virgin Islands Attorney General to withdraw his subpoena and cease an investigation which conflicted with the First Amendment right of free speech,” said Attorney General Strange. “We are all free to advocate our own opinions about climate change, but we don’t have the right to do so through subpoenas, litigation, and threats of prosecution against those with whom we disagree. I am pleased the Attorney General of the Virgin Islands has acknowledged that free speech must be protected.”

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton gave this statement on the withdrawal of the subpoena:

“The so-called 'investigation' by Walker was a constitutionally improper attempt to suppress the freedom of speech based only on the content being communicated. In America, we have the freedom to disagree, and we do not legally prosecute people just because their opinion is different from ours. We are glad that the abuse of power by Attorney General Walker, and those that he hired, has come to an end,” said Attorney General Ken Paxton. “Attorneys working for the government should be motivated by public interest, not financial gain.”

*The dismissal filed by General Strange and General Paxton is attached to this release*

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the sovereign power and investigative and prosecutorial authority of Intervenor-Plaintiff States and to defend the rule of law against abuse by Defendants.

Dated: June 30, 2016

LUTHER STRANGE  
Attorney General of Alabama  
501 Washington Ave.  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Respectfully submitted,

KEN PAXTON  
Attorney General of Texas

JEFFREY C. MATEER  
First Assistant Attorney General

BRANTLEY STARR  
Deputy First Assistant Attorney  
General

PRERAK SHAH  
Senior Counsel to the Attorney  
General

ANDREW D. LEONIE  
Associate Deputy Attorney General  
for Special Litigation

AUSTIN R. NIMOCKS  
Associate Deputy Attorney General  
for Special Litigation

/s/ Austin R. Nimocks  
AUSTIN R. NIMOCKS  
Texas Bar No. 24002695  
Office of the Texas Attorney General  
Special Litigation Division (Mail  
Code 001)  
P.O. Box 12548, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548  
*ATTORNEYS FOR INTERVENOR -  
PLAINTIFFS*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on June 30, 2016, this document was served to counsel of record through the Court's CM/ECF Document Filing System.

/s/ Austin R. Nimocks  
Austin R. Nimocks