



March 25, 2022

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Rep. McMorris Rodgers,

I am writing in response to your letter of March 10, 2022. To be extremely clear, neither League of Conservation Voters (LCV) nor League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (LCVEF) have any connections – financial or otherwise— to Russia or China. We are proud of our more than 50 year track record as effective grassroots advocates for environmental protection in the United States.

Our positions on environmental policy have never been directed by any government or government agent, they are based on what is best for people and the planet and grounded in sound science.

LCV and LCVEF advocate for climate solutions that are at the scale that science and economic and environmental justice require. Our advocacy has centered around supporting a shift to 100% clean energy powering our grid, cars, buses and buildings; scaling investments in the deployment of wind and solar energy, battery storage, and domestic clean energy manufacturing; limiting methane pollution from the oil and gas sector; cleaning up air and water pollution caused by the fossil fuel industry that is disproportionately harming low income and communities of color; supporting nature-based climate solutions; and protecting communities from dangerous offshore drilling.

Sea Change Foundation’s funding sources, their awards to grantees including League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, as well as efforts their funds support are – and always have been – publicly available through their IRS Form 990-PFs.ⁱ Sea Change Foundation grants to League of Conservation Voters Education Fund support our broader work to educate the public about climate change and clean energy, which has been a priority for our organizations for decades and pre-dates support from Sea Change Foundation.

The claims raised in reports referenced in your letter have been investigated, refuted, and publicly debunked several times and over several years. Subsequent to the sending of your letter these claims have once again been exposed as baseless, including by the fact checkers at *The Washington Post*.ⁱⁱ *The Washington Post* analysis concludes: “For years, it’s been clear that Sea Change Foundation has no connection to secret Russian money. After all, the foundation is associated with one of the world’s richest families. On top of that, we find no evidence that money donated by Sea Change resulted in anti-fracking campaigns.”

Prior to this most recent inquiry, these baseless allegations were refuted in 2017 and 2018.ⁱⁱⁱ For example, in a *Politico* article about Rep. Lamar Smith’s request for the Trump administration to investigate these claims in 2017 *Politico* wrote, “there is no evidence that Russian money has gone to U.S. green groups.”^{iv}



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

We have watched Putin's unlawful and brutal attack on the people of Ukraine with horror. We stand with the people of Ukraine and condemn this unprovoked assault. We also supported efforts to ban Russian imports.^v Indeed the need to ban Russian oil in response to Putin's unlawful attack on Ukraine is a sobering reminder of why we must end our addiction to fossil fuels and transition to investments in clean energy, jobs, and justice, which will make us safer for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski, President

CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman of Energy & Commerce Committee

ⁱ <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/204952986>

ⁱⁱ The bogus 'allegation' that Putin is funding a California environmental charity, Washington Post, March 17, 2022 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/03/17/bogus-allegation-that-putin-is-funding-california-environmental-charity/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Republicans brewing Russian scandal to target greens, Politico, July 23, 2017 <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/07/23/fracking-russia-republicans-240834>; Top Climate Change Donors Pull Back the Curtain on Their Past and Future Giving, Inside Philanthropy, July 20, 2018 <https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/home/2018/7/20/top-climate-change-donors-pull-back-the-curtain-on-their-past-and-future-giving>

^{iv} Republicans brewing Russian scandal to target greens, Politico, July 23, 2017 <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/07/23/fracking-russia-republicans-240834>;

^v <https://lcv.org/article/lcv-on-russian-oil-ban-we-cant-drill-our-way-out-of-high-gas-prices/>