

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JOINT ECONOMIC
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 22, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Judge Robin L. Rosenberg
Director
Federal Judicial Center
Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Judge Rosenberg:

I write to express my deep concern about a revealing new report regarding the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) infiltration of our nation's judiciary. The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) has worked for decades to advance the People's Republic of China's (PRC) national security and energy policies. And now, under the guise of educating American judges on "the scientific and technical evidence before them,"¹ ELI's Climate Judiciary Project (CJP) has reportedly provided training to more than 2,000 judges on far-left climate ideology.² When judges receive continuing education and training, it should pertain to the impartial, fair administration of justice—not political, left-wing programming from a CCP-linked group.

According to the national security organization State Armor, over the course of three decades, "ELI's work has uniformly advanced Chinese strategic and national security interests while undermining American national security . . . and simultaneously pushing America toward dependence upon energy sources dominated by the PRC."³ In 2018, that very same group launched its Climate Judiciary Project "in coordination with the [Federal Judicial Center] . . . in response to demand from the judiciary for education about climate science."⁴ While the stated goal was to provide "neutral, objective information to the judiciary," it's clear that ELI's goal was to "make judges more receptive to climate litigation" and, even more troubling, "'target' judges in states 'where [climate] cases were being brought.'"⁵

The substance of CJP's programming is equally as concerning. According to State Armor's report, CJP's materials instruct judges on how to "frame" climate change matters and "influence colleagues who may be 'opposed to action on climate change.'"⁶ The CJP programming also

¹ CLIMATE JUDICIARY PROJECT, *About CJP*, <https://www.cjp.eli.org/about>.

² Letter from Michael Lucci, Chief Exec. Off., State Armor, to Members of Cong. (June 30, 2026) <https://www.statearmor.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ELI-Letter.pdf>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ CLIMATE JUDICIARY PROJECT, *About CJP*, <https://www.cjp.eli.org/about>.

⁵ STATE ARMOR, *ELI AND COMMUNIST CHINA: HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE THREATENS AMERICAN ENERGY AND ADVANCES CHINESE INTERESTS* 7 (2026).

⁶ *Id.* at 8.

includes material that has little to do with standard continuing legal education content, including lesson plans on “implicit bias” and “Resistance to Change.”⁷ Critically, according to the report, the majority of CJP’s materials were “created by scholars who have called for liability for oil and gas companies,” including a scholar who has labeled the oil and gas industry as “diabolical.”⁸ Ultimately, as State Armor notes, these lesson plans are not standard judicial educational materials. Instead, they are blatant efforts to encourage judicial activism, attempting to steer judges across the United States to rule in favor of the far-left climate lobby.

The Federal Judicial Center states that its mission is to “support the efficient, effective administration of justice and *judicial independence*.”⁹ It is clear, however, that—through its partnership with the ELI—your organization has done the exact opposite. The federal judiciary should be in no way linked to a left-wing, CCP-affiliated group that pushes climate activism. For all of these reasons, I urge you to immediately cease any judicial programming that involves ELI’s Climate Judiciary Project in any way.

Please respond to the following questions by **5:00 PM on July 29, 2026:**

1. In the Federal Judicial Center’s role of developing and administering continuing education programs, how many federal judges have participated in any continuing education, training, or other programming provided by the Environmental Law Institute’s Climate Judiciary Project?
2. Was the Federal Judicial Center aware of the Environmental Law Institute’s close ties to the People’s Republic of China before it sanctioned its programming?
3. What process did the Federal Judicial Center’s Education Division utilize to vet the Environmental Law Institute as a potential educational partner for federal judges and court staff?
4. What steps has the Federal Judicial Center taken to ensure the Chinese Communist Party does not have any role in its educational programming for judges?
5. Is the Federal Judicial Center partnering with any other legal training organizations with financial or political ties to foreign nations, including bad actors like the PRC?

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER, *About the FJC*, <https://www.fjc.gov/about> (emphasis added).

6. Will the Federal Judicial Center commit to immediately ceasing all judicial educational programming involving the Environmental Law Institute or its Climate Judiciary Project?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator