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Lawsuit Filed Over IFC's Refusal to Provide Information About its Systemic Failures in Meeting Climate Obligations

Case Against US Gov. Seeks to Compel Release of Documents Detailing Routine Failures of IFC and its Shareholders to Adhere to their Climate Change Requirements

San Francisco, CA, July 11, 2025 – Bank Climate Advocates (BCA) [filed a lawsuit](#) today against the International Finance Corporation's (IFC's) largest shareholder for its role in failing to publicly disclose the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) impact avoidance analyses for investments. IFC claims the analyses demonstrates it is meeting its policy requirements and commitment to align its investments with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C climate target.

The lawsuit, filed under the United States Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) against United States Department of Treasury in California's Federal Northern District Court seeks to compel US Treasury to release these analyses for IFC investments in 9 natural gas plants and 4 other high greenhouse gas emitting projects in the cement and livestock industries.

[BCA issued a FOIA request](#) for these analyses to US Treasury on January 23rd. Almost six months later, Treasury has yet to provide the responsive analyses it and IFC have confirmed they use prior to IFC financing decisions to determine whether to proceed with investments. Before submitting the FOIA to Treasury, [IFC refused to provide these documents to BCA](#) under the false guise of deliberative privilege, trade secret, and commercial confidentiality exceptions under its own Access to Information Policy.

"We are appalled IFC failed to disclose the core climate change alternatives and mitigation analyses that tax payer funded public entities are legally required to disclose for public review and needed to ensure informed decision making," said BCA's Jason Weiner. "It is especially troubling considering Treasury and IFC claim these analyses for IFC's fossil fuel investments demonstrate renewables were not economically and technically feasible, nor of least cost to communities - we believe those are false and unsupported claims."

Routine release of these documents for public review and comment prior to IFC financing decisions will not only help prevent harmful and expensive new fossil fuel lock in projects such as natural gas power plants and LNG terminals that the IPCC and IEA have demonstrated will cause the 1.5°C global warming limitation objective to be exceeded. It would be a huge step in improving IFC's, and other major Multilateral Development Banks' accountability and transparency in implementing their climate change policies. It also would [further evidence and provide deeper insight into the severe insufficiencies of IFC's climate change policies and their implementation](#) that run far afoul of IFC's and its member states' climate change due diligence and harm prevention legal obligations. These insufficiencies are causing catastrophic climate change harms to the Global South communities that IFC is supposed to benefit.

Bank Climate Advocates (BCA) *is an innovative organization helping drive the systemic change in finance needed to avert the worst effects of climate change and help transform the global energy system. Our focus is on aligning the climate change policies and practices of leading public financial institutions with 1.5°C using legal advocacy and action. Christopher Sproul of Environmental Advocates is providing lead legal representation for BCA on this case, with BCA's in house counsel Jason Weiner also serving as an attorney.*

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