

ATI Denounces Efforts to Block Taxpayer Access to Public Information

ATI

The Environmental Law Center at American Tradition Institute today noted with regret a press conference [scheduled for this morning](#) by three Virginia lawmakers to announce their effort to protect the University of Virginia from compliance with an anti-fraud against the taxpayer statute. This law was passed unanimously in the state's two legislative chambers just three years ago with full knowledge that it covered the academic class, which is uniquely dependent upon taxpayer dollars.



This move is transparently designed to substitute for the University's faltering legal defense against Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli in his pre-investigation of possible fraud involving millions of dollars. It also heightens the importance of ATI's recent, pending [request](#) for the same records sought by Mr. Cuccinelli, which thanks to his inquiry, the University no longer denies possessing, but only refuses to produce.

Also today, ATI has asked UVA to clarify its intentions ([PDF](#)) behind a curious demand for more time to respond to ATI's FOIA request ([PDF](#)) for these records, which relate to the infamous global warming "hockey stick." Additionally, ATI appealed ([PDF](#)) as facially inadequate UVA's reply to ATI's request ([PDF](#)) seeking records about the private effort underwriting UVA's legal campaign to keep these records from public view, at a cost now approaching a half a million dollars.

"It is hard not to read these efforts to protect the University from producing records owed the taxpayer, which the taxpayer paid for, as increasingly desperate," said Christopher Horner, ATI's senior director of litigation. "Regardless, I sense outrage building in the Virginia taxpaying community, and am confident that the University of Virginia will conclude that it must comply with the various laws from which it seeks to avoid coverage."

See ATI's reply to the University of Virginia about ATI's request for Michael Mann's records at University of Virginia. ([PDF](#))

See ATI's reply to the University of Virginia about ATI's request for UVA donor records pertaining to Attorney General Kenneth Cuccinelli's Fraud Against Taxpayers Act investigation. ([PDF](#))

For an interview with Christopher Horner, senior director of litigation for the American Tradition Institute Environmental Law Center, contact him at chris.horner@atinstitute.org.