



December 2, 2016

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Lieutenant Governor of the State California

Honorable Betty Yee  
State Controller of the State California

Honorable Michael Cohen  
Director of Finance of State of California

Members of The California State Lands Commission:

Consumer Watchdog is deeply troubled by the Lands Commission's potential actions Tuesday, which could give a California billionaire the belief that because he is a large Democratic donor he can privatize California's beaches and stalemate state government.

Following Democratic denunciations of a billionaire president and his billionaire appointees, the saga of public access to Martins Beach shows the Democratic Party in California has its own billionaires to reckon with.

Vinod Khosla has played hard ball with the commission in refusing to deal in good faith on public access to Martins Beach. He has demanded an outrageous price for property that should be the public's at no cost. It's time to initiate eminent domain proceedings. Anything less will be an abdication of your responsibility to the public that deserves access to the beach.

Particularly at this time in American history, the California Lands Commission should not pander to a billionaire Democratic donor who has leveraged his wealth and political connections to privatize public property.

Ex-parte communications between interested parties and the Commission are not prohibited until January and surfers have reported that the fix is already in for Mr. Khosla at Tuesday's hearing.

In addition, to Mr. Khosla's prolific political giving, the political connections involved raise the specter of impropriety should Mr. Khosla prevail Tuesday.

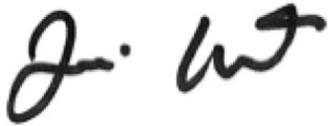
For example, Mr. Khosla's is represented in his fight to keep the public off Martin's Beach by Rusty Areias of California Strategies. Jason Kinney, a key confidante and consultant to the Lieutenant Governor, is also a partner at California Strategies.

This is a moment to send a signal to billionaires that California's coast is not for sale and

that California leaders stand with beach goers, the coast and in the way of billionaires trying to flout coastal protection laws and deny Californians rights to our own land. If Mr. Khosla succeeds in bullying this Commission, then billionaires up and down the coast will be emboldened.

We place our trust and faith in your integrity and diligence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Court". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Court  
President