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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

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April 11, 2014

Janet McCabe
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCabe:

Earlier this week, you testified at the April 8 Environment and Public Works Full Committee hearing to consider your nomination to be Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As we discussed then, I have been involved in a continued effort to bring transparency to the process surrounding the development of the social cost of carbon estimates (SCC), a process which, in fact, seems to be very closed. I have mentioned before the importance of understanding how these estimates were created, since they have been used in 28 EPA rules thus far. They are of great significance not only because they are used frequently to justify costly and controversial regulations, but also because the specific participants with any level of involvement in the process behind developing the estimates have been kept completely anonymous.

At the hearing, I mentioned that the only insight I have into who participated in the Interagency Working Group responsible for the estimates came from one of your direct reports, Sarah Dunham, the Director of the Office of Atmospheric Programs within OAR at EPA. She admitted to having attended IWG meetings and that her office was involved in the process, assisting "...particularly with respect to the technical work and the modeling."¹ You yourself claimed that you did not personally participate in any discussions, which is curious since you were Acting Assistant Administrator and Deputy throughout the development of the estimates and technical support documents – one would think if anyone were in the room, it would be someone in your position. You also stated you did not sign off *in writing* on participation in the IWG even though you were aware that "EPA's scientists and technical experts do participate in various interagency work groups."²

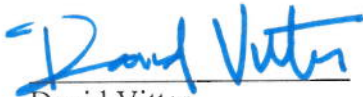
¹ U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works. *Fugitive Methane Emissions*, Hearing, Nov. 5, 2013, <http://www.vitter.senate.gov/newsroom/video-and-audio/view/vitter-questions-epa-on-social-cost-of-carbon>

² U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works. *Hearing on the Nominations of Janet G. McCabe to be the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ann E. Dunkin to be the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information of the EPA, and Manuel H. Ehrlich, Jr., to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board*, Hearing, Apr. 8, 2014, http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=5ea38ab5-c76d-605d-0d71-953c4ba338f4

Based on the incompleteness of your responses at your nomination hearing, I requested a further response from you. Below are the questions I posed to you on April 8, and I look forward to hearing from you in writing by April 25, 2014.

- 1) Did you participate in the interagency working group?
- 2) Did you sign off on any contributions made by your office, including the technical assistance and modeling provided?
- 3) Will you provide the names, titles, and participation levels of anyone in the OAR who participated or signed off on EPA's contributions to the development of the SCC estimates?

Sincerely,



David Vitter
Ranking Member
Environment and
Public Works