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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
MARY FRANCES REPKO, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write to request that you immediately clarify your knowledge of and approval for the raises given to two of your top aides, Sarah Greenwalt and Millan Hupp, in light of the accumulating statements and an email that contradict your assertion that you knew nothing about the raises.

On April 16, the EPA Inspector General confirmed<sup>1</sup> in a Management Alert that Ms. Greenwalt (referred to as Employee A in the Management Alert) received raises totaling \$66,244 or 67%, and Ms. Hupp (referred to as Employee B in the Management Alert) received raises totaling \$48,080 or 72.3%, since they were hired in March 2017.

The most recent April 1, 2018 raises for these two aides (\$56,765 for Greenwalt and \$28,130 for Hupp) were approved using authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act, reportedly after the White House rejected granting the raises using different personnel authority. When you were asked about these raises in an April 4 interview<sup>2</sup> on *Fox News*, you emphatically denied giving Greenwalt and Hupp raises and claimed that “[your] staff” was responsible for the pay raises at issue and that you only “found out about the issue yesterday” (April 3, 2018).

Your statement seems to be in direct conflict with emails and statements made by several other EPA officials. For example:

- On April 5, the *Washington Post* reported<sup>3</sup> that “two EPA officials confirmed that Pruitt endorsed the idea last month of giving substantial raises to senior counsel Sarah Greenwalt and scheduling and advance director Millan Hupp — although he did not carry out the pay raise himself.”

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-04/documents/\\_epaog\\_20180416-18-n-0154.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-04/documents/_epaog_20180416-18-n-0154.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Barnini Chakraborty, “EPA’s Scott Pruitt pushes back on pay raise, condo controversy in Fox News exclusive,” *Fox News* (April 4, 2018), <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/04/04/epas-scott-pruitt-pushes-back-on-pay-raise-condo-controversy-in-fox-exclusive.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/05/top-epa-ethics-official-says-he-lacked-key-facts-about-pruitts-condo-rental/?utm\\_term=.e01c115a7e3e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/05/top-epa-ethics-official-says-he-lacked-key-facts-about-pruitts-condo-rental/?utm_term=.e01c115a7e3e)

- On April 6, we received information similar to that received by the *Washington Post* from a third EPA official.
- On April 9, *The Atlantic*<sup>4</sup> reported that two EPA officials confirmed the existence of an email from Ms. Greenwalt that asserted that you approved her raise.
- On April 10, Mr. Kevin Chmielewski, a long-time supporter and campaign aide of President Donald Trump who also served as your Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at EPA, told us that the raises were “100% Pruitt himself.” He also explained that earlier this year he was called into your Chief of Staff’s office and told that you wanted to move him out of his position in order to give Ms. Hupp his title and a pay increase.
- A February 27, 2018 email<sup>5</sup> (attached) from Ms. Greenwalt to EPA’s human resources personnel states that “I have not seen any documentation that will reflect an increase in salary as previously discussed with the Administrator.”

In light of these accumulating reports, it seems difficult to believe that you neither knew about nor supported these large raises for Ms. Greenwalt and Ms. Hupp, even if you, as the Administrator of an agency that employs about 15,000 people, did not personally fill out the paperwork that awarded them. In addition to the requests we made regarding this matter on April 9, we ask that by close of business on Wednesday, April 25, you provide clear responses to the following questions.

1. Did you, at any time prior to February 27, 2018, indicate to Ms. Greenwalt that you supported a salary increase for her? If not, do you believe that Ms. Greenwalt’s February 27 email was a falsehood?
2. Did you, at any time, indicate that you wished to give Ms. Hupp a salary increase or a promotion to Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (or any other position)?

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Dan Dudis at [dan\\_dudis@whitehouse.senate.gov](mailto:dan_dudis@whitehouse.senate.gov) or Michal Freedhoff at [Michal\\_Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov](mailto:Michal_Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov).

Sincerely yours,

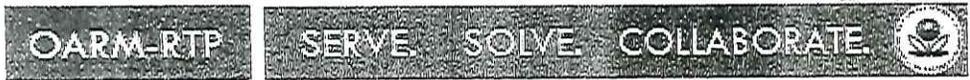
  
 Thomas R. Carper  
 Ranking Member

  
 Sheldon Whitehouse  
 United States Senator

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/04/pruitt-epa-raises/557561/>

<sup>5</sup> A copy of this email was published by *The Washington Post* on April 20, 2018

[REDACTED]  
HR Specialist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
OARM/HRMD-RTP  
109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Mail Code C639-02  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711  
[REDACTED]



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From: Greenwalt, Sarah  
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:45 AM  
[REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: OF-306 Needed for Reassignment

Thank you [REDACTED] I will work on this expeditiously. I have not seen any documentation that will reflect an increase in salary as previously discussed with the Administrator. Can you please send that documentation as well before I fill out this form?

Many thanks.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 7:57 AM  
To: Greenwalt, Sarah <[greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov](mailto:greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov)>  
Subject: RE: OF-306 Needed for Reassignment

Hi Sarah,

I'm following up on the request below. Please return your OF-306 to me as soon as possible. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
HR Specialist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
OARM/HRMD-RTP  
109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Mail Code C639-02  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711  
[REDACTED]