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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
GABRIELLE BATKIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 9, 2018

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

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

We write to request information regarding your use of Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) hiring authority to grant two aides large pay raises. Specifically, we question your recent claim that you did not direct or even know about these raises.

On April 3, 2018, *The Atlantic* reported¹ that EPA asked the White House to approve substantial pay raises for Sarah Greenwalt and Millan Hupp, two aides who accompanied you from Oklahoma to Washington. Because both Greenwalt and Hupp were schedule C employees, any pay raises had to be approved by the White House. According to *The Atlantic*'s reporting, the White House denied the \$56,765 raise that was requested for Greenwalt and the \$28,130 raise that was requested for Hupp. EPA is then alleged to have reappointed Greenwalt and Hupp under the SDWA hiring authority in order to grant them the raises that the White House had rejected.

On April 4, 2018, you granted an interview² to *Fox News*. In this interview, 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) and “corrected the action.”

On April 5, the *Washington Post* reported³ 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.” On April 6, we received similar information from an EPA official that further confirms the *Washington Post*'s reporting and directly contradicts your statements during your April 4, 2018 interview on *Fox News*.

¹ Elaina Plott and Robinson Meyer, “Scott Pruitt Bypassed the White House to Give Big Raises to Favorite Aides,” *The Atlantic* (April 3, 2018), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/04/pruitt-epa/557123/>

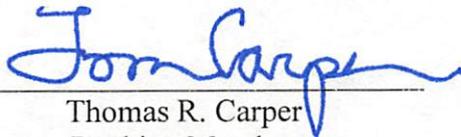
² Barnini Chakraborty, “EPA’s Scott Pruitt pushes back on pay raise, condo controversy in Fox News exclusive,” *Fox News* (April 4, 2018), <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/04/04/epas-scott-pruitt-pushes-back-on-pay-raise-condo-controversy-in-fox-exclusive.html>

³ 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

So that we can understand the degree to which you were aware of, supported, directed or were otherwise involved in the decision to award Sarah Greenwalt and Milan Hupp raises, please provide us with a copy of all documents (including but not limited to emails, texts, meeting minutes, telephone logs, correspondence, personnel/payroll forms or memoranda) related to the decision.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. Please provide your response no later than April 20, 2018. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Dan Dudis at dan_dudis@whitehouse.senate.gov or Michal Freedhoff at Michal_freedhoff@epw.senate.gov.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

cc. The Honorable Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., Inspector General, U.S. EPA