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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

May 1, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We appreciate your decision to cancel your keynote speech at the May 5 Oklahoma Republican Party (OKGOP) Gala. The attached invitation, which first came to light on April 24, mentioned your official position three times, featured a photo of you being sworn in as the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, and promised a “once in a lifetime opportunity” to hear you discuss your “plans to slash regulations, bring back jobs to Oklahoma, and decrease the size of the EPA!” The Hatch Act permits federal employees like yourself to speak at a political fundraiser as long as you are not on duty, appear only in your personal capacity, and do not solicit political contributions. Considering the invitation text clearly invoked your official position to publicize and sell tickets to the gala and raise money for the OKGOP, your participation would have violated the Hatch Act.

Many of us raised concerns during your confirmation process that your long track record of making direct political solicitations from companies and industries you now regulate, participating in political fundraising events, and chairing the boards of political organizations like the Republican Attorney Generals Association (RAGA) and the Rule of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), presented a high risk of conflicts of interest. The circumstances surrounding the May 5 Gala exacerbate those concerns. Devon Energy and Koch Industries, for example, are two of the companies with direct financial ties to you and the OKGOP and that are regulated by EPA. Had you attended the Gala, your presence there would reasonably have been seen as an opportunity to curry favor with you by making political donations to your political allies.

The complaint made against you requested the Office of Special Counsel conduct a “full investigation into the facts and circumstances of this matter.” We agree that a full investigation is necessary. To that end, we request you provide the following information so we can also conduct appropriate oversight into this matter:

- All documents and communications between you and any member of your staff and the OKGOP or anyone working on its behalf since February 17, 2017.
- All documents and communications related to your participation in the May 5 OKGOP Gala, including any ethics advisories, counseling notes, or opinions issued for this event, drafts of the event invitation, and comments or communications on those drafts.
- Any other materials you or anyone at EPA relied upon to determine that your participation in the May 5 OKGOP Gala was, or was not, permitted under the Hatch Act.

- All documents and communications related to participation by EPA staff, including your security detail, related to the May 5 OKGOP Gala and any other events you planned on attending during that trip.
- All documents and communications related to the payment of travel, accommodation, and other expenses related to the May 5 OKGOP Gala and any other events you planned on attending during that trip.
- All documents and communications related to any other political fundraisers you have already attended at Administrator, been invited to attend, and have agreed to attend in the future.
- All documents that detail your plans for ensuring that for future political events the Designated Agency Ethics Official at EPA receives draft copies of any promotional materials and description of the role you have been invited to play at such events before you agree to participate in them, in order to ensure that your participation complies with all applicable requirements.

In responding to these requests, please include any memos or other hard-copy documents and communications conducted over official and unofficial electronic mail accounts, social media accounts, and encrypted messaging applications (e.g., Confide, Signal, and Whisper). We request the courtesy of a response no later than May 19, 2017.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator





THE ANNUAL  
**OKLAHOMA**  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
GALA  
with  
Keynote Speaker  
**Scott Pruitt!**

VIP Reception: 6PM

Dinner: 7PM



The OKGOP is proud to announce that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will be the Keynote Speaker at this year's Oklahoma Republican Party Gala!

During his short tenure as EPA Administrator, Pruitt has overseen the rollback of the Waters of the US rule, called for an exit from the Paris Climate Agreement, and championed a return to EPA "originalism."

You do not want to miss Pruitt at this year's OKGOP Gala, as he discusses his plans to slash regulations, bring back jobs to Oklahoma, and decrease the size of the EPA!

Make sure to purchase your Gala tickets so you don't miss out on Administrator Pruitt's future plans and how he will continue to Drain the Swamp! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, so buy your tickets before they sell out!

[Click Here to Buy Gala Tickets!](#)



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