

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

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

December 18, 2017

The Honorable Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.  
Inspector General  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Elkins,

I write to ask you to expand the scope of your current audit regarding Administrator Pruitt's travel in light of his recent trip to Morocco. This trip reportedly<sup>1</sup> cost taxpayers \$40,000, and one purpose of the trip was to promote U.S. liquefied natural gas exports.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, I request that you review the purpose of Administrator Pruitt's travels to determine whether his activities during each trip are in line with EPA's mission "to protect human health and the environment".<sup>3</sup>

I first wrote to you on August 4, 2017 and asked you to examine Administrator Pruitt's travel with regard to frequency, cost and purpose of his travel, the extent to which he is accompanied by staff, and include a review of both his domestic and international travel. On August 28, 2017, you announced that you would undertake an audit of the Administrator's travel that included trips to Oklahoma, through July 31, 2017. On October 6, 2017 you then announced that you would expand the scope of the audit to "include all travel by the Administrator through September 30, 2017."<sup>4</sup>

In light of the Administrator's recent trip to Morocco, I request that you further expand the scope of your audit to include all travel up to the present, with an examination of whether the purpose of travel is consistent with the EPA's mission.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the appropriate members of your staff to contact Michal Freedhoff, a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee staff, at 202-224-8832.

With best personal regards, I am,

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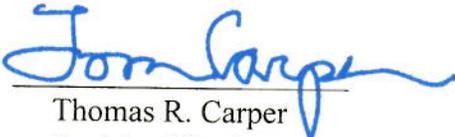
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/12/14/stories/1060069015>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-promotes-environmental-cooperation-us-partners-morocco>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/our-mission-and-what-we-do>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/notification-audit-epas-adherence-policies-procedures-and-oversight-0>

Sincerely yours,



Tom Carper

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Thomas R. Carper  
Ranking Member