



1000 Vermont Avenue, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
Main: 202-296-8800
Fax: 202-296-8822
www.environmentalintegrity.org

May 11, 2017

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Inspector General Hotline
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mailcode 2431T
Washington, DC 20460

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Office of Inspector General investigate whether reassigning ten criminal investigators to expand the personal security detail for EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is a wasteful use of taxpayer funds.

[The Washington Post reported](#) on April 12, 2017, that ten agents from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Criminal Enforcement will be reassigned to provide around the clock security for Administrator Scott Pruitt. Other news organizations have reported the same story. The transfer would more than double the size of the previous Administrator's security detail. Meanwhile, EPA's budget proposal for 2018 would eliminate fifty staff from the Agency's criminal enforcement program while cutting travel and other "non-salary" expenses from \$6 million to \$4.2 million a year.

According to the webpage for the Inspector General's hotline, "Waste involves the taxpayers not receiving a reasonable value for money in connection with any government-funded activities due to an inappropriate act or omission. Most waste does not involve a violation of law; rather, waste relates primarily to mismanagement, inappropriate actions, and inadequate oversight." When determining whether the recent expansion of the Administrator's personal security detail meets this definition, please consider:

- The type and quality of evidence used to justify this extraordinary increase;
- Whether that evidence suggests that potential threats to the Mr. Pruitt's personal safety are much greater than they were for his predecessor;
- The amount of tax dollars spent on the Administrator's security, including salary and benefits for nearly twenty staff, overtime payments, travel costs and other expenses;
- The impact that reassigning ten criminal investigators to guard the EPA Administrator on a twenty four hour basis will have on EPA's ability to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes.

Thank you for your attention to our request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Schaeffer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Schaeffer
Executive Director

cc: U.S. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Ben Cardin, and Chris Van Hollen; and U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin.