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July 28, 2017

Sent via email.

Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pruitt.scott@epa.gov

Dear Administrator:

I am writing in response to recent statements you made in an interview on an Oklahoma news station in response to our July 24 release of information about your travel in March, April, and May of this year (<http://okcfox.com/news/local/group-files-complaint-regarding-epa-administrator-scott-pruitts-travel-to-oklahoma>). Your travel vouchers were obtained by the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) through a Freedom of Information Act request, which provide information about the destination, scheduled events, and airline reservations and fare. The summary we released on Monday, July 24, was based on our review of those travel records, supplemented by your schedule of meetings through the end of March, which your office disclosed in response to an earlier FOIA request from E&E news. We released all of the above records at the same time.


Your interview stated that the “source” of the release was an “alt-EPA” group comprised of former employees of the Obama Administration. Your statement is incorrect, or misleading at best.

I joined EPA in 1990 and left the Agency in February of 2002, when George W. Bush was President and Governor Christine Whitman served as EPA’s Administrator. On August 1, 2001, during President Bush’s first year in office, Attorney General John Ashcroft presented me with an award for leading a successful initiative to secure cleanup commitments from the nation’s largest refineries. I am proud of my service as a career (non-political) employee of EPA who served under both Republican and Democratic Presidents and political appointees. But I left the federal government more than fifteen years ago and never worked for President Obama’s Administration in any capacity.

Our Deputy Director is Mary Greene, a career attorney who served at EPA from February of 1993 to May of 2005. Senior Research Analyst Courtney Bernhardt worked as a paralegal for the U.S. Department of Justice in May 2008 during the George W. Bush Administration until July 2011, though she has been on maternity leave since May 17. Two of our staff worked for several months each as EPA interns during President Obama’s tenure and another worked as a contractor for EPA in 2014. There are no other former EPA employees on our staff, and no other former government employees who worked in any capacity under the Obama Administration.

Our list of employees is published online at <http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/who-we-are/our-staff-and-careers/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Schaeffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Schaeffer" clearly legible.

Eric Schaeffer
Executive Director
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