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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

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April 13, 2018

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

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I am writing to you following a *Washington Post* article entitled, "Scott Pruitt has four different EPA email addresses. Lawmakers want to know why," dated April 12, 2018.


The *Post* report alleges that you have four official email accounts. It also claims that unnamed officials at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are concerned that the agency may not have searched all these email accounts when responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The article quotes, Steve Fine, EPA's acting chief information officer, who explained that: "When EPA receives a FOIA request concerning the Administrator's emails, all accounts associated are searched before we respond to that request."

Subsequently, Jahan Wilcox, an EPA spokesman, stated that: "The EPA maintains three email accounts which are attributed to Administrator Pruitt: two are used by staff for calendaring and public correspondence; the third is used by the Administrator. A fourth email account was created for use by the Administrator but was superseded and never used beyond three test emails. When we receive a FOIA request all accounts are searched before we respond to the FOIA request."

During your confirmation hearing, I specifically asked you to "refrain from taking any...action that makes it difficult or impossible for the public to access your official written communications under the Freedom of Information Act." You agreed to my request. Can you affirm that EPA does in fact search all your official email accounts when responding to FOIA requests? As part of your response, please include a list of all official email accounts that you use.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,


John Barrasso, M.D.
Chairman