



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 02 2018

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable Tom Carper
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Carper:

Thank you for your April 10, 2018, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) review whether Administrator Scott Pruitt is complying with the Federal Records Act and the EPA's Records Management Policy when using multiple email accounts. You also asked that we review whether the agency has properly searched those email addresses in response to Freedom of Information Act requests.

As I have noted in previous letters to Congress, in determining whether the OIG can undertake requested work, initially we have to find that the matter is within our jurisdiction. But, beyond that threshold question, we have to determine whether we have sufficient resources—people, time and funds—to do a project in a timely fashion and whether it would preclude our doing other crucial work. The fact is that the OIG has been funded at less than the levels we deem adequate to do all of the work that should be done, and we therefore have to make difficult decisions about whether to accept any given potential undertaking. Many of our projects are statutorily mandated work, with Congress adding new mandates each session. Further, our annual work plan, which is also statutorily mandated, uses a risk-based analysis that identifies dozens of additional high-impact projects. All of this means that for every discretionary review the OIG decides to undertake there will be others we cannot.

However, despite these constraints, we have determined that the issues raised in your letter are within the authority of the OIG to review, and we will do so. As you know, we have numerous other pending matters, and are not sure when we can begin this engagement. We will inform you and your staff when we have begun the project, and will provide you with the results as soon as we finish.

We appreciate your interest in the work of the OIG. A similar letter is being sent to Senator Merkley. █
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur A. Elkins Jr."

Arthur A. Elkins Jr.

cc: The Honorable Scott Pruitt, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

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