



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

OFFICE OF  
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MAR - 1 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone:

In a letter dated September 26, 2017, you informed me that on August 1, 2017, you sent a letter to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) "requesting a legal opinion on whether recent actions by Administrator Scott Pruitt violated the Antideficiency Act and the publicity or propaganda and anti-lobbying provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CSA) of 2017 during the time period before President Trump decided to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord." You also stated that "prior to GAO conducting an analysis of whether recent actions by Administrator Pruitt violated the Antideficiency Act and the publicity or propaganda and anti-lobbying provisions of the CSA, it is necessary to establish a factual record." As a result, you requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) "develop a comprehensive factual record for instances where possible legal violations may have occurred, including the April 2017 meeting between Administrator Pruitt and the National Mining Association."

On December 4, 2017, the OIG responded to your request by stating that after discussing our intended approach with your staff and officials of the GAO, the OIG would compile a factual record of the single meeting between EPA Administrator Pruitt and the National Mining Association in April 2017 and provide it to you. In turn, you may provide the OIG record to the GAO.

To that end, the OIG's Office of Investigations conducted seven interviews with members of the National Mining Association and five interviews with EPA personnel who attended the April 2017 meeting. Before agreeing to the interviews, members of the National Mining Association requested confidentiality; hence, all personally identifiable information was omitted from the written account of those interviews, which is enclosed.

We appreciate your interest in the work of the OIG. If you have additional questions about this or any other matter, please contact Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs, at (202) 566-0918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles J. Sheehan".

Charles J. Sheehan  
Acting Inspector General

Enclosures