

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

April 20, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House Of Representatives, I write to request a briefing from your agency regarding the multiple, and conflicting, reports about the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget request from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

To date, the only official documentation the Committee has to guide our understanding of how the Administration intends to distribute a draconian 31 percent cut to EPA's budget is a page and a half of the March 16, 2017 budget blueprint.<sup>1</sup> However, recent press reports, leaked documents, and vague public statements from Administration officials have raised significant questions about the utility of that document with regard to understanding the Administration's plans for ensuring EPA's continued functioning. The most detailed document that has surfaced is a leaked internal memorandum from EPA Acting Chief Financial Officer David A. Bloom dated March 21, 2017, which outlines in greater detail line item budget figures for specific programs at EPA.<sup>2</sup> But this document has not been officially released, so the Committee cannot confirm its accuracy.

As the Committee with primary oversight authority over EPA, it is imperative that Energy and Commerce Members and staff receive accurate and timely information on the current priorities and plans of the Agency. It is unacceptable that the Committee has only heard of the

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Management and Budget, *America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again* (Mar. 2017).

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum from David A. Bloom, EPA Acting Chief Financial Officer, to EPA Acting General Counsel, et al. *FY 2018 President's Budget: Major Policy and Final Resource Decisions* (Mar. 21, 2017).

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proposed staff and funding cuts --and the elimination of more than 50 critical programs-- through unofficial sources.

To expeditiously remedy this situation, I request a briefing on EPA's budget request. As part of this briefing, and to the extent practicable, I would appreciate any information concerning the programs and initiatives within the jurisdiction of the Committee, including proposed budget and spending breakdowns, future state and regional funding, current and future employment numbers, elimination and consolidation plans for allegedly duplicative programs, and timelines for implementing these sweeping changes. I believe this briefing will provide vital information to assist in overseeing the EPA programs and initiatives within the Committee's jurisdiction, to ensure your Agency is fulfilling its legal obligation to protect human health and the environment. This briefing is needed straightaway as Congress considers funding for the second half of FY 2017.

To that end, I request your cooperation in ensuring that such a briefing is scheduled immediately. Should you have any questions, please have your staff contact Caitlin Haberman with the Committee Democratic staff at 202-225-3641. I appreciate your prompt attention to this request, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member