

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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April 19, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Shimkus:

We write to respectfully request that when Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt appears before the Subcommittee on Environment next week, the hearing be expanded to include the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and Mr. Pruitt be placed under oath for his testimony.

As you know, there are currently five separate independent investigations taking place at our request into the Administrator's actions and misuse of taxpayer funds. Additionally, a number of other committees in both chambers, including Members from both sides of the aisle, have requested investigations into Mr. Pruitt's conduct as Administrator.

Mr. Pruitt's extraordinary lack of responsiveness to Congressional inquiries, legal violations resulting from EPA's failure to notify Congress about his expenditures, and serious questions about the veracity of his statements regarding a number of these ethics issues make this request necessary. With regard to this last point, we point to the shifting explanations for Mr. Pruitt's first-class plane flights and constantly changing explanations for his security spending as two of the many examples of the Administrator providing less than straightforward answers to critical inquiries.

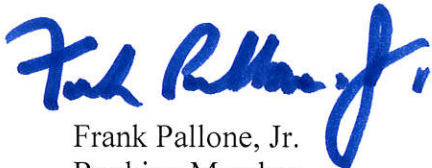
We also note that this appears to be the only opportunity for Members to question the Administrator over his highly controversial actions in office. These actions include his extremely unusual lease and low-cost living arrangement, excessive spending of taxpayer money for domestic first class travel and other questionable purchases, and retaliatory action against both political and career staff who questioned Mr. Pruitt's spending.

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As the committee with primary jurisdiction over the EPA, it is imperative that we engage in meaningful bipartisan oversight of the Agency and its leadership. We recognize that the stated purpose of this hearing is to perform oversight of the Agency's fiscal year 2019 budget, but since that time the ethics cloud surrounding Mr. Pruitt has adversely affected the Agency's effectiveness. Mr. Pruitt's excessive and wasteful spending of taxpayer funds is well-documented and makes it impossible to discuss EPA's budget in a vacuum.

We, therefore, urge you to expand this hearing to include the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and, most importantly take whatever steps are necessary to ensure Mr. Pruitt testifies under oath when he appears before this Committee next week.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member



Paul D. Tonko  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment



Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations



Kathy Castor  
Vice Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce