For April 26, 2018 Hearing

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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

FALSE CLAIM ...

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt wasted taxpayer money on three international travel trips. What's not told is that the trip to Italy was for the G-7 environmental summit and the Morocco trip was to meet with government leaders about environmental issues. Finally, a planned trip to Australia was cancelled so Administrator Pruitt could stay in the U.S. and monitor relief efforts related to Hurricane Harvey.

Additionally, Pruitt's international travel has been criticized despite the fact he has taken fewer international trips and spent less money than his two predecessors: Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson.

PRECENDENT FOR EPA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ...

- Administrator Pruitt has taken 2 international trips: total cost $160,000.
- Administrator McCarthy took 10 international trips: total cost $630,000.
- Administrator Jackson took 4 international trips: total cost $332,000 (including $155,000 on one trip to China.)

Former EPA Administrators Gina McCarthy And Lisa Jackson Spent More On International Travel Than Pruitt. "Internal EPA documents provided to the Washington Free Beacon reveal Obama administration EPA administrators jet setting cost taxpayers roughly $1 million. The EPA has spent $124,000 for Pruitt and his security detail to travel to the G-7 summit in Italy and a trip to Morocco. McCarthy took 10 international trips in three years, including trips to Paris, Florence, Dubai, and Tokyo. Pruitt has come under scrutiny from the media for the travel costs, which include $84,000 for the G-7 summit in Italy last summer in airfare for Pruitt and security... McCarthy spent $629,743 on airfare and security for international trips between 2013 and 2016...Internal EPA documents show costs for trips to Ghana ($68,382), Peru ($45,140), Tokyo ($74,738), Paris ($41,321), Dubai ($90,368), Tokyo ($67,703), Florence ($56,193), Vancouver ($62,247), Vietnam ($68,268), and Beijing ($55,385)." (The Washington Free Beacon, 03/21/2018)

Lisa Jackson's China Trip Exceeded $155,000. "Between 2009 and 2012, Jackson spent $64,963 for trips to Tel Aviv; $59,950 to Rio de Janeiro; $51,436 to Montreal; and $155,764 to Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai." (The Washington Free Beacon, 03/21/2018)

ITALY ...

Administrator Pruitt Promoted The Importance Of International Engagement At His First G7 Meeting. "U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt attended his first G7 Environmental Ministerial Meeting, taking part in thoughtful bilateral discussions with his G7 counterparts. Less than two weeks after President Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Accord, Administrator Pruitt emphasized now is the time to move forward with a discussion to find ways to positively engage with other countries in order to protect and use our natural resources. 'The United States has always been a world leader when it comes to environmental stewardship, and that was demonstrated on a global stage today,' Administrator Pruitt said. 'I

believe engaging in international discussion is of the utmost importance to the United States when it comes to environmental issues. I want to thank the government of Italy and Minister Galletti for the tremendous hospitality and leadership over this meeting.' 'The protection of the environment and public health,' said Italian Minister of the Environment Gian Luca Galletti, 'is a common goal for Italy and the United States. There are many themes that see our common commitment. The presence of Administrator Pruitt at the G7 Environment in Bologna has been a very important element that allowed us to start constructive dialogue on all environmental issues as well as to open new channels of business cooperation between our two countries.' Administrator Pruitt returned to the United States Sunday evening in order to attend the President's first full cabinet meeting scheduled for Monday. (Press Release, 06/11/17)

Both Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Attended The Same G-7 Meeting As Pruitt And EPA Security Details Followed The Same Protocol As Past Trips. "'Administrator Pruitt's security detail followed the same procedures for the G-7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy's trips to Italy,' agency spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in an email. 'EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years.'" (The Washington Post, 03/20/2018)

- **Gina McCarthy Also Visited The Vatican While In Rome**. "Explaining her visit Friday to the Vatican, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said she wanted to let Pope Francis know that President Barack Obama is 'aligned with him' on the issue of climate change and is taking action." (The Forum on Religion and Ecology, 01/30/2015)

Media Reports Suggest Pruitt's Trip To Italy Cost Too Much On Travel And Security. "Pruitt said he took official meetings during the entire four-day trip to Italy for the G-7 environmental summit in June of last year... Documents released earlier this week show that the cost of the trip was $30,000 more than previously reported, bringing the total to around $120,000. An EPA document showed that the cost of travel for Pruitt's security detail was $30,559 the week of the trip. (ABC News, 03/22/2018)

Pruitt Critics Purposefully Ignore The Significance Of The G7 Italy Trip. "That's a lot of money for Mr. Pruitt to tour the Vatican, pose for photos and tell his European counterparts that global warming doesn't matter,' Eric Schaeffer, executive director of the Environmental Integrity Project, said in a statement Tuesday. 'And it doesn't even include salary costs for everyone who signed up for this tour. Maybe next time he should just send his regrets.'" (The Washington Post, 03/20/2018)

EPA STATEMENT: "Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA's Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015." – EPA spokesman

On February 13, 2018 CBS News Reported That EPA Had "A Certificate Justifying The Return Flight From Milan," Allowing Administrator Pruitt To Fly On A Foreign Carrier Due To Lack Of

Options Available From American Carriers. "A certificate justifying the return flight from Milan that the EPA provided to CBS News said Pruitt flew on a foreign carrier because it was the only available flight 'that would get the administrator back in time' to attend a Cabinet meeting with President Trump the next day." (CBS News, 2/13/18)

MOROCCO ...

Administrator Pruitt Promotes Environmental Cooperation With Moroccan Government Officials. "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt attended bilateral meetings in Morocco this week where he outlined U.S. environmental priorities for updating the Environmental Work Plan under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement and the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports on Morocco's economy. This visit comes on the heels of an EPA-led workshop in Rabat that shared U.S. best practices for solid waste management, public participation and crisis communication pursuant to the former Environmental Work Plan. 'These meetings allowed us to directly convey our priorities and best practices with Moroccan leaders, as well as identify opportunities for continued cooperation, as our two countries further talks around the Environmental Work Plan,' said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. 'We are committed to working closely with countries like Morocco to enhance environmental stewardship around the world.' Administrator Pruitt met with Moroccan Secretary of State of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mounia Boucetta, where the two discussed the importance of continued collaboration between the two countries. Following the meeting with Secretary Boucetta, he met with the Moroccan Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Aziz Rabbah, to discuss new and ongoing areas of collaboration under the Free Trade Agreement and the country's interest in importing LNG. Also during the visit to Morocco, Administrator Pruitt met with Moroccan Minister of Justice and Liberties, Mohamed Aujjar. The two focused on the importance of adhering to rule of law and the ongoing strategic cooperation between the two countries. Administrator Pruitt also toured the IRESEN Green Energy Park, where he saw firsthand the work being done to promote environmental innovation including solar energy across Morocco. (Press Release, 12/12/17)

The Washington Post Criticized Pruitt For Spending A Night In Paris, When In Reality His Outbound Flight Was Cancelled And He Was Forced To Spend A Night Near Charles De Gaulle Airport In France. "An EPA official said the trip was affected by weather delays, which prompted the group to stay in Paris on Dec. 10 before arriving in Rabat the next day." (The Washington Post, 03/20/18)

ABC News Falsely Reported That Pruitt Had One Scheduled Meeting For The First Day, When In Fact His Flight Was Cancelled Due To Snow At Dulles And His Schedule Had To Be Adjusted. "Wilcox said Saturday that Pruitt originally had more meetings scheduled that first day in Morocco but his plans changed after weather delayed his flight out of Dulles International Airport on Dec. 9" (ABC News, 04/21/18)

ABC News Criticized EPA Over A Portion Of Pruitt's Calendar Which Was Redacted, When The Redaction Was For A Senior Staff Meeting, It Listed Of All 98 Attendees For A Meeting In Washington That He Never Attended. "The four-page redaction to the Morocco schedule is

simply a calendar entry for a Senior Staff Meeting at EPA Headquarters in DC, which the Administrator did not attend because he was in Morocco. The entry includes all attendees invited to the meeting, which is the reason for the extensive redaction. Every meeting that took place in Morocco has been publicized and included on the Administrator's schedule."

Despite The False Narrative From The Media That Pruitt Went To Morocco To Solely Promote Natural Gas, He Attended Numerous Meetings On A Wide Range Of Topics. "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt returned Wednesday from a trip to Morocco, where he talked with officials about their interest in importing natural gas as well as other areas of 'continued cooperation' between the two countries… The purpose of the trip sparked questions from environmental groups, Democratic lawmakers and some industry experts, who noted that EPA plays no formal role in overseeing natural gas exports. Such activities are overseen primarily by the Energy Department and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission." (The Washington Post, 12/13/2017)

Pruitt Had Numerous Meetings Pertaining To Agency Priorities, Including Disaster Relief, Solid Waste Response, And The Bilateral Free Trade Agreement Between The U.S. And Morocco. "Pruitt met with three top Moroccan officials, according to the agency statement, including the minister of energy, mines and sustainable development; the minister of justice and liberties; and the secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs. Wilcox said Pruitt 'discussed our bilateral free trade agreement, solid waste response, disaster relief and communications with top Moroccan officials…' His visit came shortly after the EPA held a workshop in Rabat about solid waste management, public participation and crisis communication. Morocco, the only African country with which the United States has a free-trade agreement, is a signatory to the 2015 Paris climate agreement and has collaborated in the past with U.S. officials on its push to expand domestic solar energy production. During the trip, Moroccan officials took Pruitt on a tour of the IRESEN Green Energy Park, which the EPA said showed the administrator 'firsthand the work being done to promote environmental innovation, including solar energy across Morocco.' (The Washington Post, 12/13/2017)

AUSTRALIA …

Members Of Administrator Pruitt's Advance Team And Security Detail Traveled To Australia Prior To Administrator Pruitt's Scheduled Trip To Meet With Australian Officials. "Pruitt was scheduled to participate in environment-related meetings with Australian officials on a visit to Sydney and Canberra…Wilcox said the original itinerary included a meeting with Australia's parliament." (Reuters, 04/19/2018)

EPA STATEMENT: "Government employees who travel for longer than 14 hours are able to fly in business class and our advance team, which included Millan Hupp and Kevin Chmielewski, was adhering to the federal government's travel policy. Their job was to arrive before Administrator Pruitt, who had meetings planned with the Australian government, but his trip was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey." – EPA spokesman

Government Officials Are Authorized To Travel In Business Class If Flights Exceed 14 hours. "The purchase of business-class tickets was not a violation of U.S. government policy, which allows federal employees to travel business class on trips lasting 14 hours or more." (Reuters, 04/19/2018)

The Trip Was Ultimately Cancelled Due To Emergency Agency Needs Surrounding Hurricane Harvey. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Pruitt's trip was canceled because of Hurricane Harvey, which caused major flooding and damage in Texas. Pruitt ended up going to Corpus Christi, Texas to assess the agency's relief efforts instead." (Reuters, 04/19/2018)

On August 30, 2017, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visited Corpus Christi "To Assess EPA Relief Efforts And Thank Responders." "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt traveled to Corpus Christi today to assess EPA relief efforts and thank responders. Administrator Pruitt also met with local and state leaders to discuss continued relief measures in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey." (EPA Press Office, 8/30/17)

Pruitt Stated That He Saw The "Devastation Endured By Texas" Firsthand While Visiting Corpus Christi. "'The devastation endured by Texas this week is unfathomable. As I saw firsthand today, the Lone Star State has shown commendable perseverance in helping their fellow neighbors through this crisis,' said Administrator Pruitt. 'EPA is committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners to provide relief to the affected regions.'" (EPA Press Office, 8/30/17)

Pruitt Had Been Scheduled To Participate In Environment-Related Meetings In Sydney And Canberra, Australia, But Cancelled The Trips Due To Hurricane Harvey. "Pruitt was scheduled to participate in environment-related meetings with Australian officials on a visit to Sydney and Canberra. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Pruitt's trip was canceled because of Hurricane Harvey, which caused major flooding and damage in Texas. Pruitt ended up going to Corpus Christi, Texas to assess the agency's relief efforts instead." (Reuters, 4/19/18)

PRUITT'S ONE-BEDROOM LEASE ON CAPITOL HILL

VICKI AND STEVE HART …

EPA STATEMENT: "When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington, he stayed at a condo owned by a friend and paid her for it. Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this complex and is a healthcare lobbyist." - EPA spokesman.

Steven Hart Is A Friend Of The Administrator's From Oklahoma And The Living Situation Was Temporary Until A Permanent Washington, DC Residence Could Be Arranged. "'My wife wasn't here yet. My children were back in Oklahoma,' Pruitt said. 'The needs were different. As soon as my wife came up, we moved to a different location where I couldn't just be living out of a suitcase…' Speaking of Hart, Pruitt said: 'He's the chairman of a law firm. I've know this gentleman for years. He's an Oklahoman, and his firm represents these [energy industry] clients, not him. There has been no connection whatsoever in that regard.'" (The Daily Signal, 04/03/2018)

Steven Hart Did Meet With Administrator Pruitt in 2017 But Claims It Was Done For A Friend And Not In An Official Capacity. "Mr. Hart disputed on Saturday that his story had changed, saying in a written statement that his work with Mr. Treacy was not compensated and not on behalf of Smithfield. 'I assisted a friend who serves on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and this is inaccurately being tied to Smithfield Foods,' Mr. Hart said. 'I was not paid for this assistance and any suggestion that I lobbied for Smithfield Foods is inaccurate...' a spokesman for Mr. Hart, Ryan Williams, told The New York Times that Mr. Hart had met with Mr. Pruitt in 2017, along with Dennis Treacy, a former Smithfield executive vice president. Mr. Treacy now serves on the board of directors of the Smithfield Foundation, which the food company describes as its philanthropic arm with a focus of combating hunger." (The New York Times, 04/21/2018)

Steven Hart Attended A Meeting With Dennis Treacy, Former Executive Vice President Of Smithfield Foods, And Administrator Pruitt Met To Discuss Restoring The Chesapeake Bay And Was Not Conducted At The Request of Smithfield Foods. "'Smithfield Foods, Inc. has learned Williams & Jensen has advocated in support of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs to help the Chesapeake Bay,' the company said in a statement Saturday. 'The objective, while laudable, was not undertaken at the direction of or on behalf of Smithfield Foods. These activities were conducted at the request of a then former executive and current Smithfield Foundation board member, Dennis Treacy, in his personal capacity.'" (The New York Times, 04/21/2018)

EPA ETHICS OFFICIALS CLEARED PRUITT'S LEASE …

On March 29, 2018, ABC News Reported EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Lived In A Condo Owned By The Wife Of A Lobbyist Steven Hart. "Hart confirmed to ABC News in a brief interview that Pruitt had lived in the flat, which is owned by a limited liability company that

links to an address listed to Hart and his wife Vicki Hart, a lobbyist with expertise in the healthcare arena. Steven Hart said Vicki Hart co-owns the condo. He said his wife was not the majority owner, but would not identify her partners." (ABC News, 03/29/2018)

EPA Ethics Counsel Concludes Arrangement Wasn't Ethics Issue Because Pruitt Paid Rent. "Bloomberg reviewed six canceled checks paid by Pruitt totaling $6,100 from March 18 through Sept 1, 2017. He paid $450 on March 18, $900 on April 26, $850 on May 15, $700 on June 4, $1,500 on July 22 and $1,700 on Sept 1… Justina Fugh, who has been ethics counsel at the EPA for a dozen years, said the arrangement wasn't an ethics issue because Pruitt paid rent… Fugh, the EPA's ethics counsel, said no gift was involved. It was a routine business arrangement between Pruitt and an individual, not a lobbying firm, she added." (Bloomberg, 03/29/18)

EPA Ethics Official Concluded That Pruitt's $50 A Night / $1,500 A Month Was Market Rate For One Bedroom On Capitol Hill. "In a memo obtained by CBS News, the Environmental Protection Agency's Ethics Official and Deputy Counsel concluded that EPA Administrator's Scott Pruitt's housing arrangement did not breach any ethical violations or constitute a gift. The memo, signed by EPA Deputy Counsel Kevin Minoli, says that the EPA's investigation determined that 'when checked against the price of traditional month-to-month rentals that would most likely offer increased privacy and exclusivity of use, a converted amount of $1,500 for Tenant's portion of the rent under the lease is within the range of amounts charged for locations no further than three blocks away.'" (CBS News, 4/4/18)

OBAMA'S TREASURY SECRETARY TIMOTHY GEITNER LIVED RENT-FREE IN A BANKING EXECUTIVE'S HOME …

During The Previous Administration, Then-Treasury Secretary Timothy Geitner Lived Rent-Free In A $3.5 Million Townhouse Owned By A Bank Executive While Geitner Was Overseeing The Bailout Crisis For Wall Street Banks "Geithner lived with Zelikow's family in the six-bedroom house, which is next door to the residence of the ambassador of Monaco and not far from the home of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during most of his first eight months running the Treasury Department. At that time, Geithner was overseeing the bailout of several huge Wall Street banks, including JPMorgan, which received $25 billion in federal rescue funds from the TARP program… The bank, JPMorgan Chase, has just rehired one of Geithner's oldest and dearest friends, Daniel Zelikow, as a top executive, only a year after the Treasury secretary moved out of his rent-free accommodations in Zelikow's $3.5 million Washington townhouse." (The Daily Beast, 08/15/10)

THREATS AGAINST PRUITT

ON APRIL 6, 2018 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FALSELY CLAIMED THEIR WERE NO THREATS AGAINST ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT …

On April 6, 2018, The Associated Press Falsely Reported That There Are No Threats Against Administrator Pruitt Because No Arrests Or Charges Have Been Filed. "A nationwide search of state and federal court records by AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt. EPA's press office did not respond Friday to provide details of any specific threats or arrests." (The Associated Press, 4/6/18)

PREVIOUS MEDIA REPORTS DISPUTE THIS CLAIM …

On April 11, 2018, CBS News Reported That Administrator Pruitt Received Numerous Threats Including One "Deemed Serious Enough To Prosecute" By The Department Of Justice. "CBS News has obtained an August 2017 report prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency's office of inspector general that contains a list of 13 threats made against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and his family. The threats range in severity, credibility and specificity. One tweet flagged by investigators said, 'Pruitt, I'm gonna find you and put a bullet between your eyes. Don't think I'm joking. I'm planning this.' Investigators believe the threat was made by someone living in India… In certain cases, cases were referred to the Justice Department, but just one was deemed serious enough to prosecute. The report covers the period from Oct. 2016 to Aug. 2017." (CBS News, 4/11/18)

On January 11, 2018 E&E News Reported That "Pruitt Has Faced More Threats Than His Immediate Predecessors, Former Administrators Gina McCarthy And Lisa Jackson." "In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. 'He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it,' Sullivan said." (E&E News, 1/11/18)

On November 1, 2017 The Wall Street Journal Reported On "More Than 70 Credible Threats Against EPA Staffers, With A Disproportionate Number Menacing Administrator Scott Pruitt And His Family." "Since the Trump Administration took office, the agency has investigated more than 70 credible threats against EPA staffers, with a disproportionate number menacing Administrator Scott Pruitt and his family… Mr. Pruitt has received more than five times as many threats as his predecessor, Gina McCarthy. These include explicit death threats. Some have referenced Mr. Pruitt's home address. Federal law enforcement has determined that some of those threatening Mr. Pruitt are likely capable of carrying out acts of violence. EPA security has

already caught suspects prowling around the administrator's neighborhood." (The Wall Street Journal, 11/1/17)

EPA'S PROTECTICE SERVICE DETAIL & SPENDING

EPA STATEMENTS …

Spending Decisions Are Made By EPA'S Protective Service Detail. "Security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail and are similar to security protocol across the federal government." – EPA spokesman

Pruitt Has Faced An Unprecedented Amount Of Threats Against Him. "According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats." – EPA spokesman

SECURE PHONE LINE …

Pruitt's $43,000 Soundproof Phone Booth Started More Modestly. "In the beginning, it was supposed to be just a secure telephone line. But over the course of four months last year, that phone line destined for the office of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt morphed from a no-more-than $13,500 project into a $43,000 privacy booth, complete with silenced ventilation and "noise-lock" paneling to keep conversations from being overheard, according to documents obtained by Bloomberg News." (Bloomberg, 4/20/18)

Costs Ballooned After Initial Cost Estimate Was Created. "EPA officials seeking bids for the project initially estimated a privacy booth would cost $13,500 on a July 24, 2017 requisition form. Another $11,500 was added on Aug. 17, and an additional $570 was included on Aug. 23 as the staff closed in on a final vendor. That $25,570, including a $1,000 after-hours delivery charge, was just for the booth itself; total costs ballooned to $43,000 after prep work and installation, including leveling a concrete floor to insert the pre-fabricated steel box. Former Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff Reginald Allen – who had the top career post in the EPA – sent booth costs of $24,570 to Chmielewski on Aug. 23, adding that he was waiting for an estimate for the floor from Jefferson's team. Another email says funding was being handled by Allen's office." (Bloomberg, 4/20/18)

Career Staff, Not Pruitt, Were Behind EPA's $43K Phone Booth. "However, the documents 'show the heavy role played by career officials who have purchasing power — and suggest political appointees without the authority to approve acquisitions were less involved,' Dlouhy reported. 'Administrator Pruitt simply requested a secure phone line but never asked for a soundproof booth, nor did he have knowledge of its purchase,' EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Bloomberg. The secure phone booth was initially estimated to cost $13,500, but soon morphed into $43,000 project, 'complete with silenced ventilation and 'noise-lock' paneling to keep conversations from being overheard,' according to Bloomberg." (The Daily Caller, 4/20/18)

EPA Career Officials Oversaw The Contract For The Phone Line. "Career officials at the Environmental Protection Agency who oversaw the funding and construction of a controversial secure phone booth for Administrator Scott Pruitt's office were acting at the behest of political

appointees and security staff, documents obtained by CBS News show. The documents show that the project started soliciting bids at an estimated $13,500 last summer. It eventually cost $43,000, which included painting, floor and ceiling work and prepping the room. Presented with four pricing options ranging between $20,560 and $24,570, career officials chose the most expensively priced because it included 'expedited materials and working outside regular business hours.'" (CBS News, 04/20/18)

The Daily Caller: Career Staff, Not Pruitt, Were Behind EPA's $43K Phone Booth trib.al/OxEFT64 (twitter, 04/22/2018)

Jennifer Dloughy, Bloomberg Reporter: New documents show how a possibly modest request for a secure phone line in EPA Chief Pruitt's office morphed into a $43,000 soundproof booth w/ noise-lock paneling & silenced ventilation. (twitter, 04/20/18)

Steve Milloy, JunkScience: JunkScience: Pfft... another line of attack on @EPAScottPruitt fizzles. Pruitt only asked for a secure phone line for $13,500. But the bureaucracy tripled the cost. (twitter, 04/20/18)

Chris Mooney, Washington Post Reporter: Pruitt's $43,000 phone booth started more modestly bloomberg.com/news/articles/... via @bpolitics (twitter, 04/20/18)

Major Garrett, CBS Chief White House Correspondent: Documents provide window into Scott Pruitt's controversial $43,000 phone booth cbsnews.com/news/documents... via @CBSPolitics (twitter, 04/20/2018)

CBS News: Documents provide window into Scott Pruitt's controversial $43,000 phone booth cbsnews.com/news/documents... via @CBSPolitics (twitter, 04/20/2018)

BULLET-PROOF VEHICLES MYTH ...

EPA Corrects Media Reports About Bulletproof Tires And Bullet-Resistant Seat Covers For Pruitt. "The Environmental Protection Agency is correcting the record, claiming news reports about bulletproof tires and bullet-resistant seat covers to protect its embattled chief Scott Pruitt at government expense were inaccurate. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Fox News: 'We would like to put this rumor to rest. EPA has no bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, the agency has no contracts for any bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, and the agency never sought any contracts for bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers.' Wilcox also sent to Fox News 'the federal purchase order, which reveals there was no purchase of bulletproof tires or bullet-resistant covers.' Wilcox added, 'In response to an individual attempting to assassinate numerous Congressional Republicans while they practiced for a charity baseball game, EPA's Protective Service Detail placed bullet-proof vests over each seat.'" (Fox News, 4/18/18)

SECURITY SWEEPS ...

Former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Also Had Their Office Swept. "He

added, 'According to EPA's Protective Service, security sweeps are common practice in government, as former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy also had their office swept.' While there was no competitive bidding for Steinmetz's [$3,000] contract, Wilcox said the agency considered multiple vendors for the biometric locks used in Pruitt's office and for the EPA inspector general." (The Washington Post, 3/6/18)

FIRST CLASS TRAVEL

Security Incidents Prompted EPA Officials To Move Administrator Pruitt To First Or Business Class. "'The shift to first-class travel began after May 2017, when EPA officials saw how recognizable Pruitt was to the general public, Barnet said. There were 'incidents where he was being approached – vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him – and so the special agent in charge provided documentation – a memo – to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" (Bloomberg, 02/15/2018)

Prior To Every Flight, EPA Submitted A Security-Related Waiver To Approve Administrator Pruitt's Travel Arrangements. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the agency submits a security-related waiver for each trip Pruitt takes." (Bloomberg, 02/15/2018)

EPA Submitted Letter To House Oversight Committee Chairman Explaining Waiver. "In a letter to Gowdy, EPA said that Pruitt's first class travel was approved 'on an individualized basis,' and was necessary due to security concerns. His security detail, the letter said, 'identified specific, ongoing threats associated with the administration administrator's air travel and, therefore, shifted his class based on security protocols that require him to be near the front of the plane.'" (The Daily Beast, 3/20/18)

EPA Spent $105,000 On First Class Travel For Administrator Pruitt For Travel. "Environmental Protection Agency administration Scott Pruitt spent about $105,000 on first class airfare since assuming the post, records obtained by The Daily Beast show. The details of Pruitt's travel are spelled out in documents sent to congressional investigators on Tuesday as part of the House Oversight Committee's probe into the use of taxpayer resources for official government travel." (The Daily Beast, 3/20/18)

In February 2018, Administrator Pruitt Announced He Directed Security Team To Accommodate Threats To Allow Him To Fly Coach. "'There's a change coming, because look the security threat matters,' Pruitt said. 'What I've told them going forward is this: There is a change occurring, you're going to accommodate the security threats as they exist, you're going to accommodate those in all ways, alternate ways, up to and including flying coach, and that is what's going to happen on my very next flight. So those things are happening right away.'" (CBS News, 02/28/2018)

The Associated Press Used Flights On Southwest Airlines – Which Does Not Have First Class – To Push Their False Narrative That Pruitt Flies Coach When He Is Paying For Person Travel. "The AP released a report on Wednesday titled: 'EPA chief sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer's dime.' The headline — and the opening lede — suggested that the leader of the EPA makes more economical decisions when taking personal flights, as opposed to his travel when conducting official business. However, there is one major detail included about Southwest Airlines: They do not offer first-class travel. This detail was included in the body of the AP article, but the headline and angle of the report framed Pruitt as a hypocrite when it comes to

personal travel." (The Daily Caller, 4/19/18)

The Associated Press Falsely Reported That EPA Confirmed Their Claim. "This was not the only detail the EPA took issue with. The AP claimed on Twitter that it confirmed their story with the agency. However, EPA spokesperson Jahan Wilcox said this tweet is false and that the agency never confirmed their report. 'The same security procedures are followed whether Administrator Pruitt is on official or personal travel,' the official statement provided to the AP read. The statement neither confirmed nor denied the story." (The Daily Caller, 4/19/18)

PRUITT'S EPA EMAIL ACCOUNTS

EPA STATEMENT: "When EPA receives a FOIA request concerning the Administrator's emails, all accounts associated are searched before we respond to that request." – Steve Fine, Acting Chief Information Officer

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy had 4 email accounts: 5178RAMcCarthy@epa.gov, Adm13McCarthy@epa.gov, GinaMcCarthy.epaadministrator@epa.gov, and McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov.

Obama EPA officials said multiple email addresses for the Administrator "have been standard practice since the Clinton Administration." "The internal account exists so that Jackson's communications with other government officials aren't buried under the crush of emails flooding into her public account, jackson.lisap@epa.gov, which got 1.5 million emails in fiscal year 2012, EPA says. The agency says such dual- account arrangements have been standard practice since the Clinton administration, when EPA Administrator Carol Browner was first assigned two @epa.gov email addresses. 'For more than a decade, EPA administrators have been assigned two official, government-issued email accounts: a public account and an internal account,' EPA said in a statement to POLITICO." (Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot, Politico, 11/20/12)

Lisa Jackson had one email for the public and one internal account to communicate with staff and other government officials. "'The email address for the public account is posted on EPA's website and is used by hundreds of thousands of Americans to send messages to the administrator. The internal account is an everyday, working email account of the administrator to communicate with staff and other government officials.'" (Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot, Politico, 11/20/12)

George W. Bush's Administration said there was nothing usual about Lisa Jackson's multiple email accounts. "High-ranking officials from George W. Bush's EPA agree that the arrangement is nothing new, and say they were never under the impression that the internal account was a secret. Senior EPA leadership and EPA regional administrators had the email address, as did anyone to whom the administrator provided it, and the messages were all considered part of the public record. When it comes to public records and FOIA requests, 'both the public and internal accounts are reviewed for responsive records, and responsive records from both accounts are provided to FOIA requesters,' EPA said." (Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot, Politico, 11/20/12)

RAISES TO STAFF & AD HIRING AUTHORITY

The Atlantic falsely claimed that Administrator Scott Pruitt was responsible for substantial pay raises to two staff. "In early March, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt approached the White House with a request: He wanted substantial pay raises for two of his closest aides." (The Atlantic, 4/3/18)

Administrator Pruitt swiftly denied his involvement in the raises. "I found out this yesterday and I corrected the action and we are in the process of finding out how it took place and correcting it," – EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (Fox News, 4/4/18)

Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff, went on the record stating that Administrator Pruitt had zero knowledge of the raises. "Administrator Pruitt had zero knowledge of the amount of the raises, nor the process by which they transpired. These kind of personnel actions are handled by EPA's HR officials, Presidential Personnel Office and me," Jackson said in a prepared statement Monday. – Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff (Politico, 4/9/18)

Jackson provided Politico with reasoning for the substantial raises but confirmed that they had been reversed per Pruitt's direction. "He [Ryan Jackson] said the staffers were to be paid "similar to their peers given their responsibilities over the past year," and that their original salaries started lower than their colleagues' because they had moved to Washington, D.C., from Oklahoma, where salaries are lower. He added that the raises had been reversed, as Pruitt instructed, and any future changes would go through the White House for evaluation." (Politico, 4/9/18)

EPA's Office of Inspector General issued a Management Alert on Salary Increases for Certain Administratively Determined Positions on 4/16/18, which referenced EPA's further reasoning for the raises. "These salary determinations for appointees were made by the Agency chief of staff, White House liaison, and Agency human resources staff based on previous salary history and increases in salary were made due to either new and additional responsibilities or promotions. The salaries involved were meant to correspond directly with the responsibilities the individual held and to attempt to ensure no salary disparities among positions of equivalent or similar responsibilities with other political appointees as much as possible. As employees continue to work in the agency reaching milestones like one year of employment and/or continue to take on new responsibilities, we will further evaluate their salaries to ensure the employees compensation is commensurate with their seniority and work." (EPA's 4/15/18 response to OIG's 4/11/18 draft report, EPA Office of Inspector General, 4/16/18) [See attached for OIG management alert]

EPA's Office of Inspector General further provides the HR documentation supporting the raises in this Management Alert, which show Ryan Jackson approved the raises. Documents show that authorizations for these raises (Employee A and Employee B), were signed "Ryan Jackson for Scott Pruitt." (EPA Office of Inspector General, 4/16/18) [See attached for OIG management alert]

EPA STATEMENT: "The Safe Drinking Water Act provides the EPA with broad authority to appoint scientific, engineering, professional, legal, and administrative positions within EPA without regard to the civil service laws. This is clear authority that has been relied on by previous administrations," EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement. (The Atlantic, 4/3/18)

- **Direct Text of Statute:** *"§ 300j–10. Appointment of scientific, etc., personnel by Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency for implementation of responsibilities; compensation*
  To the extent that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency deems such action necessary to the discharge of his functions under title XIV of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.] (relating to safe drinking water) and under other provisions of law, he may appoint personnel to fill not more than thirty scientific, engineering, professional, legal, and administrative positions within the Environmental Protection Agency without regard to the civil service laws and may fix the compensation of such personnel not in excess of the maximum rate payable for GS–18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5." (GPO)

Multiple EPA employees from previous administrations have confirmed its wide use. "Stan Meiburg, who spent 39 years at EPA, including as acting deputy administrator in the Obama administration, said, "It has been done by both parties, so it has been ratified over time.... These are highly prized positions because you can bring people in without having to go through the usual competition process." Meiburg remembered both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations having AD hires. (E&E News, 4/4/18)

- "A provision of the Safe Drinking Water Act allows the EPA administrator to hire up to 30 people into the agency, without White House or congressional approval. The provision, meant to help expedite the hiring of experts and allow for more flexible staffing, became law in 1996. In past administrations, it has been used to hire specialists into custom-made roles in especially stressed offices, according to Bob Perciasepe, a former acting EPA administrator." (The Atlantic, 4/3/18)

When asked about how the AD hiring authority has been used in previous administrations, former EPA employees all had conflicting comments on what it was used for, supporting that the statute gives broad authority to the Administrator. "Stan Meiburg, who spent 39 years at EPA, including as acting deputy administrator in the Obama administration... recalled some of those hires landing as political aides to EPA regional chiefs during those administrations. Meiburg said it made sense that the Trump administration would use the hiring authority for political aides like press officials and schedulers to assist Pruitt. "Those are pretty specialized skills, and there are folks in the political field who have those skills," said Meiburg, who now teaches at Wake Forest University. "That's not to say you don't need a good solid career staff in

public affairs, as well." But Meiburg found it noteworthy that Pruitt had used the hiring authority to bring on deputy assistant administrators. "The use of the AD authority to bring on a political deputy is a little unusual," Meiburg said. "*Most of the AD appointments are at a lower level.* You usually have a non-career SES be a political deputy." (E&E News, 4/4/18)

- ***"The people I knew of in that category were well-seasoned, experienced professionals in their fields,"* said Ken Kopocis,** who headed the Office of Water from 2011 to 2015. "We did not use it as a way to get around the White House. … It's not designed to fill up your political slots." (Washington Post, 04/04/18)

- "In past administrations, it has been used to *hire specialists into custom-made roles in especially stressed offices*, according to Bob Perciasepe, a former acting EPA administrator." (The Atlantic, 4/3/18)

KEVIN CHMIELEWESKI & SENATE DEMOCRATS' LETTER

ALLEGATION 1 …

Mr. Chmielewski provided several examples to lawmakers of wasteful security spending beyond justifying the use of first-class travel under the guise of security. This includes the purchase of bulletproof vests and weapons, biometric looks, a security sweep of Administrator Pruitt's office, one or more new SUVs for Administrator Pruitt's travel (rather than obtaining vehicles from the General Services Administration), and a $30,000 contract with private Italian security personnel entered into by Mr. Nino Perrotta, the Special Agent who leads Administrator Pruitt's security detail. Mr. Chmielewski explained that at least one security-related contract was awarded to an individual who works at Mr. Perrotta's private security firm, and he believes that other contracts may also have been awarded to friends or associates of Mr. Perrotta's.

SECURITY DETAIL FOR THE G-7 SUMMIT IN ITALY …

EPA Security Detail Followed The Same Security Procedures On The G7 Trip That Have Been Used For The Previous 14 Years. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the security detail 'followed the same procedures for the G7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson, and Gina McCarthy's trips to Italy. EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years.'" (Reuters, 3/20/18)

EPA STATEMENT: "Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA's Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015." – EPA spokesman

BULLETPROOF VEHICLES …

On April 19, 2018 Fox News Reported That EPA Pushed Back On Claims Of Purchasing Bulletproof Materials, Stating That The Agency Has Never Sought Nor Purchased Any Bulletproof Vehicles, Tires, Or Seat Covers. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Fox News: 'We would like to put this rumor to rest. EPA has no bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, the agency has no contracts for any bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, and the agency never sought any contracts for bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers.'" (Fox News, 4/19/18)

SECURITY SWEEPS/LOCKS …

EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox Stated That "Security Sweeps Are Common Practice In Government, As Former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Also Had Their Office Swept." "He added, 'According to EPA's Protective Service, security sweeps are common practice in government, as former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy also had their office swept.' While there was no competitive bidding for Steinmetz's contract, Wilcox said the agency considered multiple vendors for the biometric locks used in Pruitt's office and for the EPA inspector general." (The Washington Post, 3/6/18)

ALLEGATION 2 …

Mr. Chmielewski told Congressional staff that Administrator Pruitt spent well beyond the $5,000 allowed by law to decorate his office, including refinishing an antique desk, purchasing an additional standing desk, paying leases for art on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, framing an 8x10 foot United States flag, and building a $43,000 soundproof phone booth.

SMITHSONIAN'S POLICY/STATEMENT …

Chmielewski Claimed That EPA Was Paying Leases For Artwork On Loan From The Smithsonian Institution, This Claim Is False As The Smithsonian Routinely Loans Cabinet Officials Paintings Free Of Charge. "One thing Chmielewski told Democrats was that EPA was 'paying leases for art on loan from the Smithsonian Institution' to furnish Pruitt's office. Chmielewski's also claimed Pruitt 'spent well beyond the $5,000 allowed by law to decorate' his office, which included 'refinishing an antique desk, purchasing an additional standing desk.' Smithsonian Institution's chief spokeswoman, however, told the New Republic's Emily Atkin they don't lease artwork to federal agencies. Spokeswoman Linda St. Thomas 'we do not charge' for artwork on loan. Atkin noted '[p]aintings and sculptures not on view in the museums are routinely loaned to members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House, she said.' St. Thomas said 'President Barack Obama's EPA administrators also loaned paintings from the Smithsonian American Art Museum,' Atkin reported." (The Daily Caller, 4/13/18)

DESKS …

EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox Stated That "The Administrator Never Considered The Proposal," Regarding Desks. "Asked about the proposed desk purchases, Mr. Wilcox, the E.P.A. spokesman, said that 'the administrator never considered the proposal.'" (The New York Times, 4/5/18)

ALLEGATION 3 …

Mr. Chmielewski said that Administrator Pruitt insisted on the use of lights and sirens to transport more quickly through traffic to the airport, meetings, and social events on numerous occasions, and that Administrator Pruitt permitted his drivers to speed through residential neighborhoods and red lights, far in excess of posted speed limits.

LIGHTS & SIRENS …

EPA Stated That "The Security Detail For The Past 15 Years Has Used Them In Very Limited Fashion." "The agency said Mr. Pruitt played no role in deciding when the sirens and lights would be used. 'The security detail for the past 15 years has used them in very limited fashion,' Mr. Wilcox said." (The New York Times, 4/5/18)

ALLEGATION 4 …

Mr. Chmielewski said that Administrator Pruitt his Director of Scheduling and Advance Millan Hupp acted as a personal real estate representative, spending weeks improperly using federal

government resources and time to contact rental and seller's agents, and touring numerous properties in which he might wish to reside.

HOUSING SEARCH ...

EPA Said That Government Resources Were Used To Find Administrator Pruitt Housing Is "Categorically False." "In a statement, EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox responded, 'The notion that government resources were used to assist in finding housing is categorically false.'" (The Washington Post, 4/3/18)

ALLEGATION 5 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said that Ms. Hupp, at Administrator Pruitt 's direction, sought to have the agency enter into a $100,000 per month contract to rent a private jet, which would have cost more than the Administrator's annual travel budget of approximately $450,000. Mr. Chmielewski claimed he successfully prevented this from occurring, as it would have been far in excess of the total travel budget of the office.

PRIVATE PLANE CONTRACT ...

On April 2, 2018 The Washington Post Reported That EPA Received A Solicitation From A Private Jet Firm, But Decided To Reject It And Continue To Fly Commercial. "'This is not news,' EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement Monday. 'EPA's [chief financial officer] regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial.'" (The Washington Post, 4/2/18)

ALLEGATION 6 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said he observed that Administrator Pruitt 's travel destinations are often dictated by his desire to visit particular cities or countries rather than official business, and that he told staff to something to do [in those locations]? to justify the use of taxpayer funds. He stated that you direct your staff to book flights on Delta, even when they are not the federal government's contract carrier for the route, because Administrator Pruitt wanted to accrue more frequent flyer miles.

PRUITT'S TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON ...

On October 1, 2017 Tulsa World Reported That EPA Spokesman Stated That "Administrator Pruitt Has Made It A Priority To Get Out Of The Deep State Of Washington," And Hear From Americans That Were Ignored By The Past Administration. "'Administrator Pruitt has made it a priority to get out of the deep state of Washington and into cities, towns and states across the country hearing from Americans that were ignored by the past Administration,' said EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox. 'When traveling, it is our policy to always fly commercial. There were few instances that dictated otherwise and the decision to fly private or government aircraft was made based on necessity or efficiency.'" (Tulsa World, 10/1/17)

On April 21, 2018 The Washington Post Reported That Pruitt Has Visited Over 30 States.
"'Administrator Pruitt has visited over 30 states. We will continue to visit those ignored by the Obama administration and implement President Trump's agenda of regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship,' Wilcox said." (The Washington Post, 4/21/18)

ALLEGATION 7 …
He also informed Congressional staff that Administrator Pruitt directed EPA staff to find reasons to travel to Oklahoma, so that he could be in his home state for long weekends at taxpayers expense. Mr. Chmielewski described the official meetings in Oklahoma as being pretextual, such as scheduling an official meeting with an old friend. According to Mr. Chmielewski, Administrator Pruitt frequently stayed in hotels that exceeded the allowable US. government per diem, sometimes even exceeding the 300 percent cap permitted in exceptional circumstances. He added that while Administrator Pruitt was reimbursed for these expenses, on some occasions members of his security detail were not reimbursed for the portion of their expenses that exceeded allowable maximums.

OKLAHOMA TRAVEL …
On February 17, 2018, CNN Reported That EPA Officials Treat Oklahoma "Exactly Like We Did North Dakota, Minnesota, Indiana And Every Other State We Visited During The Tour."
"Reached for comment, EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said: 'With respect to visiting Guymon, it was an important stop on our WOTUS [Waters of the United States] tour where we were able to hear comments from people who have been directly affected by the rule, whose voices have been disregarded in the rulemaking process. By visiting with government officials and citizens, we treated Oklahoma exactly like we did North Dakota, Minnesota, Indiana and every other state we visited during the tour.'" (CNN, 2/17/18)

ALLEGATION 8 …
After the EPA Chief of Staff raised concerns about Administrator Pruitt travel, Mr. Chmielewski reported that he texted his Chief of Staff to tell him that his presence was no longer welcome at scheduling meetings for your travel. Mr. Chmielewski further described Administrator Pruitt's efforts to marginalize your Chief of Staff as he refused to follow some actions you directed, and he described Ms. Hupp and Sarah Greenwalt, your senior counsel, as running the agency.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS …
EPA STATEMENT: "Our scheduling and public engagement offices lead this process and involve other staff members as needed." – EPA Spokesman