

# TRANSACTION DETAILS

[<< Go to Award Summary](#)

## DEFINERS CORP EP18H000025

### AMOUNTS

**Obligated Amount** \$120,000  
**Current Contract Value** \$120,000

### PURCHASER

**Major Agency** 6800: Environmental Protection Agency  
**Major Funding Agency** 6800: Environmental Protection Agency  
**Contracting Office Agency ID** 6800: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Contracting Office ID** 68HE0H: HQ PROC OPS DIVISION (HPOD)  
**Funding Requesting Agency ID** 6800: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Funding Requesting Office ID** 68A000: OFC OF ADMINISTRATOR (OA) (FUNDING)  
**Foreign Funding** X

### CONTRACT INFORMATION

**Signed Date** 12/7/2017  
**Effective Date** 12/7/2017  
**Current Completion Date** 12/6/2018  
**Ultimate Completion Date** 12/6/2018  
**Award Type** B: PURCHASE ORDER  
**Type of Contract Pricing** J: FIRM FIXED PRICE  
**UndefinitizedAction** X  
**Performance Based Service Contract** X: NOT APPLICABLE  
**Contingency Humanitarian Peacekeeping Operation** X: NOT APPLICABLE  
**Contract Financing** Z: NOT APPLICABLE  
**Contract Description** NEWS ANALYSIS AND BRIEF SERVICE FOCUSING ON EPA WORK AND OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST TO EPA.  
**Purchase Card As Payment Method** N: NO  
**Number of Actions** 1  
**National Interest Action Code** NONE: NONE

### CONTRACTOR INFORMATION

**Vendor Name** DEFINERS CORP  
**Address** 1500 WILSON BLVD # 5  
**City** ARLINGTON  
**ZIP Code** 22209  
**Congressional District** 08  
**Country** USA: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**DUNS** 076234313  
**Parent DUNS** 076234313  
**State Code** VA

### PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

**City** WASHINGTON  
**State** District of Columbia  
**Country** UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**Zip Code** 20460

Congressional District DC00

**PRODUCT OR SERVICE**

**Product or Service Code** 7035: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT  
**Principal NAICS Code** 541820: PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCIES  
**Government Furnished Equipment or Property** N: Transaction does not use GFE/GFP  
**Use of EPA Designated Products** E: NOT REQUIRED  
**Recovered Material Clauses** C: NO CLAUSES INCLUDED AND NO SUSTAINABILITY INCLUDED  
**Contract Bundling** H: NOT BUNDLED  
**Consolidated Contract** D: D  
**Place of Manufacture** D: MFG IN U.S.  
**Country of Origin** USA: UNITED STATES

**RECORD INFORMATION**

**Identifying Agency ID** 6800: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Procurement Instrument Number** EP18H000025  
**Modification Number** 0  
**Transaction Number** 0  
**Fiscal Year** 2018

**COMPETITION INFORMATION**

**Extent Competed** C: NOT COMPETED  
**Reason Not Competed** ONE: ONLY ONE SOURCE - OTHER  
**Number of Offers Received** 1  
**Commercial Item Acquisition Procedures** A: COMMERCIAL ITEM  
**Commercial Item Test Program** N: NO  
**A76 Action** N  
**Solicitation Procedures** SSS: ONLY ONE SOURCE  
**Type of Set-Aside** NONE: NO SET ASIDE USED.  
**Evaluated Preference** NONE: NO PREFERENCE USED  
**FedBizOpps** N  
**Local Area Set-Aside** N

**CONTRACTOR CHARACTERISTICS**

**Organizational Type** CORPORATE NOT TAX EXEMPT  
**Number of Employees** 25  
**Annual Revenue** \$3,296,000  
**Contracting Officer Business Size Determination** O: OTHER THAN SMALL BUSINESS  
**Self\_Certified\_Disadvantaged\_Business** Yes

**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES**

**Clinger Cohen Act** N: NO

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**Executive 1**  
**Executive 2**  
**Executive 3**  
**Executive 4**  
**Executive 5**



## Allan Blutstein

### Senior Vice President

Allan Blutstein leads Definers' efforts to obtain government records through public records requests, a role he has served in since 2015 at the company's affiliated organization America Rising.

Before joining America Rising, Mr. Blutstein litigated Freedom of Information Act cases at Cause of Action Institute, a conservative public interest law firm. He previously was the principal legal advisor to FOIA staff at the Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Stability. He also worked at the Department of Justice's Office of Information Policy, the government's lead FOIA policy office.

Mr. Blutstein earned his law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and is a member of the New York and District of Columbia bars. He has never been murdered.

## MEET OUR TEAM

Our team is committed to helping provide opportunities for our clients throughout their campaigns.



### ALLAN BLUTSTEIN VICE PRESIDENT, FOIA OPERATIONS

Allan Blutstein leads America Rising's efforts to obtain government records through public records requests.

Mr. Blutstein came to America Rising in 2015 with more than a decade of experience as an information law attorney. He served in the federal government as the principal legal advisor to the Freedom of Information Act staff at the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Stability. He also worked at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Information and Privacy, the federal government's lead agency on FOIA matters. Immediately before joining America Rising, Mr. Blutstein litigated FOIA cases on behalf of Cause of Action Institute, a public interest law firm.

Mr. Blutstein earned his law degree in 1997 from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and is a member of the New York and District of Columbia bars.

## Request Details

Tracking Number : EPA-R10-2017-005407



## Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein  
Organization : America Rising

Date Submitted : 03/28/2017  
Closed Date : 04/18/2017  
Final Disposition : No records

## Description :

All emails sent by Natasha Greaves on December 7, 2016, and February 16, 2017 that mention Scott Pruitt.

## Released Records ?

No records have been released.

**Request Information**

Full Name : Allan L. Blutstein

Date Submitted : 03/29/2017

Organization : America Rising

Closed Date : 05/26/2017

Final Disposition : No records

**Description :**

Any email sent by Michael J. Mikulka (Chicago) on March 28, 2017 that mentions or refers to: (1) President Trump, or (2) the "Clean Power" plan.

**Released Records** 

No records have been released.

## Request Details

Tracking Number : EPA-R7-2017-005406



## Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein

Date Submitted : 03/28/2017

Organization : America Rising

Closed Date : 04/26/2017

Final Disposition : No records

## Description :

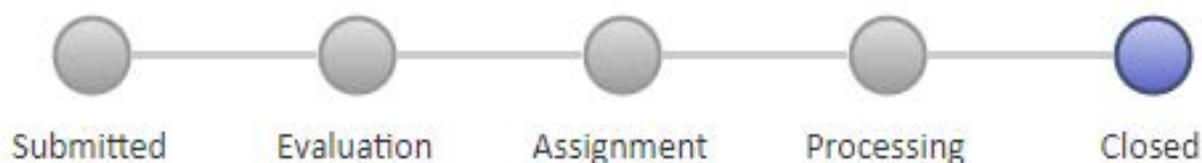
All email sent by Lucretia Myers that mentions Scott Pruitt on February 16, 2017, and February 17, 2017.

## Released Records <sup>?</sup>

No records have been released.

## Request Details

Tracking Number : EPA-R9-2017-005393



## Request Information

Full Name : Allan L. Blutstein  
Organization : America Rising

Date Submitted : 03/28/2017  
Closed Date : 04/19/2017  
Final Disposition : No records

## Description :

Any email sent or received by attorney Thelma Estrada on February 16, 2017 or February 17, 2017 that mentions Scott Pruitt, excluding news articles.

## Request Details

Tracking Number : EPA-R3-2017-005375



## Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein  
Organization : America Rising

Date Submitted : 03/28/2017  
Closed Date : 06/27/2017  
Final Disposition : No records

## Description :

All email exchanged between Gary Morton (morton.gary@epa.gov) and the office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey (@casey.senate.gov) since February 1, 2017.

## Request Details

Tracking Number : EPA-R2-2017-005412



## Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein  
Organization : America Rising

Date Submitted : 03/28/2017  
Closed Date : 04/19/2017  
Final Disposition : No records

## Description :

1. All email sent by Anthony Tseng (New York, NY) on December 7, 2016 that mention Scott Pruitt; and 2. All email sent by Mr. Tseng on March 28, 2017, that mention or refer to President Trump.

## Released Records ?

No records have been released.

# American People, 'Why Do You Love the EPA?'

AFGE Local 3911 will be giving \$10,000 worth of cash prizes to winners of Love Letters to the EPA contest



NEWS PROVIDED BY

**American Federation of Government Employees**

Jul 13, 2017, 13:50 ET

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WASHINGTON, July 13, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Working people at the Environmental Protection Agency have dedicated their careers to keeping America's air clean and water safe. They serve without political agenda and keep their focus on protecting community health for all Americans – now and in the future. But, despite making massive strides in keeping dangerous pollutants out of our drinking water and air, civil servants at the EPA may soon see their work unraveled.

To help combat the partisan narrative being slung by those who want to give polluters free reign, American Federation of Government Employees Local 3911 is asking the American public, "Why do you love the EPA?" in their [Love Letters to the EPA contest](#) – open now through September 1, 2017.

The 2018 budget proposed by the Trump Administration is calling for a 31 percent cut to the EPA's budget, a massive reduction of staff, and the dismantling of services and programs millions of Americans rely on. These proposals, paired with unnecessary rollbacks of life-saving regulations, threaten the existence of the country's frontline community health defender.

"The EPA has faced intense scrutiny this year as the President has rolled out his plans for the agency," said AFGE Local 3911 President Antony Tseng, "We want the American people to tell us why they don't want to see the EPA dismantled, and why they want us to continue to protect our citizens for years to come," he added.

The contest is open to individuals who are United States citizens, and residents of the United States or a U.S. Territory, who are not employees or former employees of the EPA or their immediate families, and are not members of Local 3911 or their immediate families. Eligible contestants are being asked to submit a video – up to two minutes in length – about why they don't want to see the President expose future generations to an environment that is hazardous to their health.

"Love Letters to the EPA is your chance to resist the proposed and inadequate federal budget for 2018," said Tseng. "If your video is the best, the \$5,000 first prize is yours. We know that a fully funded EPA protects human health and the environment. Who do you trust to tell you the air and water is safe? More Americans trust the U.S. EPA," he added.

More information about the Love Letters to the EPA contest can be found on [www.afge.org/LL2EPA](http://www.afge.org/LL2EPA) and by following #LL2EPA on Facebook and Twitter. Winners will be announced in October 2017.

*The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is the largest federal employee union, representing 700,000 workers in the federal government and the government of the District of Columbia, including 10,000 employees at the Environmental Protection Agency.*

**For the latest AFGE news and information, visit the [AFGE Media Center](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).**

## Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein

Date Submitted : 05/02/2017

Organization : America Rising

Closed Date : 09/28/2017

Final Disposition : Full grant

## Description :

All communications exchanged since November 7, 2016, between Christopher "Chris" Grundler, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, and any individual using one of the following email domain addresses: (1) @suntimes.com; (2) @huffingtonpost.com; (3) @washpost.com; (4) @thehill.com; (5) @eenews.net; (6) @politico.com; (7) @talkingpointsmemo.com; (8) @msnbc.com; (9) @cbsnews.com; or (10) @nbcnews.com. Please note that this request does not seek widely-disseminated emails received by Mr. Grundler directly from a listserv.



Submitted



Evaluation



Assignment



Processing



Closed

## Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein

Date Submitted : 05/01/2017

Organization : America Rising

Closed Date : 05/25/2017

Final Disposition : No records

## Description :

All emails exchanged on or after November 7, 2016, between Mike Shapiro, Office of Water, and any individual using one of the following email domain addresses: (1)@suntimes.com; (2)@huffingtonpost.com; (3) @washpost.com; (4) @thehill.com; (5) @talkingpointsmemo.com; (6)@eenews.net; (7) @politico.com; (8) @msnbc.com; (9) @cbsnews.com; or (10) @nbcnews.com. Please note that this request does not seek widely-disseminated emails received by Mr. Shapiro directly from a listserv.

## Released Records <sup>?</sup>

No records have been released.

## Request Details

Tracking Number : EPA-HQ-2017-006774



## Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan Blutstein  
Organization : America Rising

Date Submitted : 05/02/2017  
? Estimated Date of June 8, 2018  
Completion :  
Final Disposition : Undetermined

## Description :

1. All communications exchanged since November 7, 2016, between [REDACTED] Office of Public Affairs, and any individual using one of the following email domain addresses: (1) @suntimes.com; (2) huffingtonpost.com; (3) @washpost.com; (4) @thehill.com; (5) @talkingpointsmemo.com; (6) @eenews.net; (7) @politico.com; (8) @msnbc.com; (9) @cbsnews.com; or (10) @nbcnews.com. Please note that this request does not seek widely-disseminated emails received by Ms. [REDACTED] directly from a listserv. 2. All communications exchanged since January 1, 2017, between Ms. [REDACTED] and the staff of U.S. Senators Tom Carper ("@carper.senate.gov"), Sheldon Whitehouse ("@whitehouse.senate.gov"), or Elizabeth Warren ("@warren.senate.gov").

**Request Information**

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein  
Organization : America Rising

Date Submitted : 05/02/2017  
Closed Date : 05/17/2017  
Final Disposition : No records

**Description :**

All communications exchanged since January 1, 2017, between Deborah "Deb" Szaro and the offices of U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse ("@whitehouse.senate.gov") or U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren ("@warren.senate.gov").

**Released Records** 

No records have been released.

Submitted

Evaluation

Assignment

Processing

Closed

**Request Information**

Full Name : Mr. Allan L. Blutstein

Date Submitted : 04/10/2017

Organization : America Rising

Closed Date : 05/08/2017

Final Disposition : Partial grant/partial  
denial**Description :**

All email sent and received by Michael Cox (Seattle) on March 31, 2017, the date of his resignation from the agency.

**Released Records**Filter by Title : 

SUBMIT

CLEAR

Results **100** ▾

62 records found, displaying all records.

**1**

<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Title</a>	<a href="#">Type</a>	<a href="#">Size (MB)</a>	<a href="#">Release Date</a>	<a href="#">Released With</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Northwest Interagency Partnership (NIPSC)..._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.08	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox_ Note to Administrator Pruitt on t..._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Re_ Mike Cox_ Note to Administrator Pruitt on 2.._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.03	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(24)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(23)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.09	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(22)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(21)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(20)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(19)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(18)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(17)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(16)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(15)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.07	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_ Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks(14)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request

<b>Download</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Size (MB)</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Released With</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(13)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(12)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.07	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(11)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(10)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(9)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(8)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.07	05/08/2017	Request
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(3)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.09	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(2)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>RE_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(1)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request

<b>Download</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Size (MB)</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Released With</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mike Cox's Retirement - Thursday, March 30th_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.03	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mike Cox_ Note to Administrator Pruitt on the d..._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.03	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mike Cox Retirement_ Thanks_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.03	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Latah Hangman Brochure w Map V_3_Redacted</i>	PDF	2.51	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If you get this....._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_Thanks_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ Thank you very much!_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.07	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ Presentation by Administrator Pruitt_ Frien..._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.07	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ Note to Administrator Scott Pruitt from Mic...(1)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.08	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ Note to Administrator Scott Pruitt from Mic 2..._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.08	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ more thoughts_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.09	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ more thoughts_(1)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ more thoughts_(2)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ Mike Cox_ Note to Administrator Pruitt on t 2..._Redacted</i>	PDF	0.11	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_ Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks(1)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request

<b>Download</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Size (MB)</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Released With</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_Mike Cox Retirement_Thanks_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.06	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_LDW adaptation workshop - a few thoughts_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.09	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FW_2_Marked_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.18	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Director Bio THEZONE Project (TZP)_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.17	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Contacts_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.04	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>CIG_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.03	05/08/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Thanks_Redacted</i>	PDF	0.03	05/08/2017	Request

62 records found, displaying all records.

**From:** [Cox, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Pruitt, Scott](#); [Benton, Donald](#); [Ericksen, Doug](#)  
**Cc:** [Cox, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Note to Administrator Scott Pruitt from Michael Cox EPA region 10  
**Date:** Friday, March 31, 2017 1:04:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Administrator Scott Pruitt from Michael Cox March 31st 2017.docx](#)

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**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**Dear Administrator Pruitt,**

My name is Michael Cox. Today is my last day after working at EPA for over 25 years. I am writing this note because I, along with many EPA staff, are becoming increasingly alarmed about the direction of EPA under your leadership. I understand there are people in the country who distrust EPA, and think we are overreaching our mission. I believe we need to listen to those voices and try to make changes where warranted.

However, I, and many staff, firmly believe the policies this Administration is advancing are contrary to what the majority of the American people, who pay our salaries, want EPA to accomplish, which are to ensure the air their children breathe is safe; the land they live, play, and hunt on to be free of toxic chemicals; and the water they drink, the lakes they swim in, and the rivers they fish in to be clean.

I assume you are aware of the current low morale of EPA career staff. I have worked under six Administrations with political appointees leading EPA from both parties. This is the first time I remember staff openly dismissing and mocking the environmental policies of an Administration and by extension you, the individual selected to implement the policies. The message we are hearing is that this Administration is working to dismantle EPA and its staff as quickly as possible. I have highlighted several areas below which are emblematic of why morale at EPA is the lowest since I started in 1987.

**1. Denying Fundamental Climate Science:** This strikes at the core of the concerns from EPA staff. It was surprising, no shocking, when you stated on National television that carbon dioxide is not a primary contributor to climate change. This is settled science and we have too many other important scientific issues to investigate related to climate change to waste our time debating this issue. I am reminded of a Congressional hearing several years ago when Congressman Henry Waxman asked the CEOs of the major tobacco companies if smoking caused lung cancer. All of the CEOs categorically denied that smoking caused lung cancer. We know, of course, that was not true. You will continue to undermine your credibility and integrity with EPA staff, and the majority of the public, if you continue to question this basic science of climate change.

We are seeing the effects of climate change on the landscape right now. If you do not believe

me, travel to Alaska during your tenure and talk with the Alaskans whose way of life is being fundamentally changed because of climate change; visit the Pacific Northwest and see where the streams are too warm for our salmon to survive in the summer; visit the oyster farmers in Puget Sound whose stocks are being altered from the oceans becoming more acidic; talk to the ski area operators who are seeing less snowpack and worrying about their future; and talk to the farmers in Eastern Washington who are struggling to have enough water to grow their crops and water their cattle. The changes I am referencing are not impacts projected for the future, but are happening now

It was encouraging that the President did not withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. However, the message from the President's other actions sends the signal to the rest of the world that the USA is no longer a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving to a clean energy economy. You are correct that we do not need to choose between jobs and environmental protection. The question is what jobs? Are they jobs to move us forward to a cleaner energy economy or backwards to a dirtier fossil fuel economy?

Your statement that "we got a bad deal" in the Paris Climate Agreement highlights another case where you have not done your homework. The Paris Agreement, while not perfect, was a huge step forward in battling climate change and moving the world in the direction of newer cleaner energy technology.

Fortunately, there are other global leaders, including China and India, who understand the urgency of the problem and are taking action. Domestically we have Governors, Mayors, CEOs, and Tribal leaders who will fill the void created by the lack of Federal leadership. They will take on the task of reducing greenhouse gases that are causing warming and put in place actions that will make their communities more resilient from climate change. And they will do this while their communities continue to prosper.

**2. "Our Big Day Today":** The email headline that greeted EPA staff on Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> was "Our Big Day Today". The question many of us had was who is "our" referring too? Was it the many EPA career staff that worked for years developing the work that was rescinded or revoked? Was it the EPA career staff that should be jubilant the President came to EPA to poke a finger in our eye (or as many people indicated to give us the finger)? Was it the fossil fuel industry that will benefit most from the President's action? Or was it the coal miners present at the event who are being given false hope their jobs are coming back?

We were frankly insulted that the President would come to EPA to announce that he is overturning the work to battle the most urgent environmental problem of our generation – climate change. It was beyond comprehension that an Administration could be so arrogant and callous.

**3. Giving False Hope:** The President is right that we need to help the coal miners who have been displaced and help retrain them for the future. The President is, however, wrong that coal jobs will be coming back after the repeal of the climate change actions. To state otherwise is false and misleading. It is amazing that an Administration that touts itself as business savvy has not done its homework on the market forces at play with coal.

The number of people employed in coal production in the USA has been declining since the high point in 1925 when over 860,000 people were employed to the current low point in 2017 with about 77,000 people are employed (US Department of Labor). The steady decline in employment in the coal industry happened, in general, as coal production increased. The cause of the decline was simple: automation, not job killing regulations.

According to coal companies themselves, the decline in production of coal in the USA will not be reversed to any great extent. There are no major new coal plants coming on line and the price of the most common replacement fuel, natural gas, will continue to decline with the advent of new production. Even if there is an increase in coal production, the number of jobs associated with the increased production will be small due to the automation of the industry.

**4. Indefensible Budget Cuts:** We were told that you tried to advocate for a smaller reduction in the EPA budget, yet in the end, the budget passed back to OMB had even deeper cuts. The clear message to EPA staff was either you supported the additional cuts or you have little to no influence with the Administration.

We would appreciate a more detailed description of why you are recommending that certain EPA programs be reduced or eliminated. We would love to know, for example, why resources for Alaska Native Villages are being reduced when they are presented with some of the most difficult conditions in the country; why you would eliminate funds for the protection and restoration of the Puget Sound ecosystem which provides thousands of jobs and revenue for Washington State; and why you would reduce funds for a program that retrofits school buses to reduce diesel emission exhaust inhaled by our most vulnerable population - children. To be credible you need to provide details why you believe these programs should be reduced or cut.

**5. Appointing Political Staff Who Are Openly Hostile to EPA:** We were surprised and dismayed when it was announced that the new EPA Chief of Staff, and several other staff, had worked for Senator Inhofe. As you know, Senator Inhofe is one of the harshest critics of EPA and the most vocal climate change denier in Congress. This sends an unmistakable and disturbing message to EPA staff that you have no intention of engaging with EPA staff and working together to accomplish what Congress and the American people have entrusted us to do.

**6. Continuing to Demonize EPA:** You have had several speeches and interviews over the past several weeks where you continue to demonize EPA, and by association EPA career staff. This has to stop. Criticizing the organization you lead is not the type of leadership that will produce results. As a leader, you need to motivate and inspire your staff. The course you are on will continue to alienate EPA career staff; the same people whom you need to accomplish your agenda and fulfill the expectations of the American people.

**7. Lack of Understanding of What We Do at EPA (especially in the Regions):** In the Regions, we work very closely with our states and Tribes. When you talk about “cooperative Federalism” it implies that this is some new concept and that we are not currently working with our states and Tribes. This is contrary to my experience and that of many others in the Region. It leaves the impression that you do not understand how closely we work with our states and Tribes now. Also, we have not heard you talk specifically about working with tribes and fulfilling our tribal treaty obligations. Working with Tribes is a high priority for us and one we take very seriously.

You have talked about paying attention to process and rule-making. You are right. However, your remarks that EPA has not been paying attention to process or rule-making are not consistent with the experiences of many EPA staff, me included. I can provide you with dozens of examples, in Region 10 alone, where we have participated in extensive public engagement with states, Tribes, communities, and industry. These types of statements indicate to us that you and your staff do not understand the fundamental work we do at EPA.

### **8. Please Step Back and Listen to EPA Career Staff**

If, by some miracle you or your staff actually read this note, I can only hope you take a step back and realize that you are the leader of an organization of very hard working, dedicated professionals who believe deeply in their work. America is a world leader in protecting our citizen’s human health and our environment. Do you really want your legacy to be the person who led the rollback and reversal of the amazing gains we have made over the past 40 years?

I understand the challenges you face when going up against ideologues that appear to cherish fulfilling campaign promises more than doing the analysis and evaluation of what makes sense. But, we are counting on you to advocate for EPA. Unfortunately, up to this point, we have no evidence of this.

Good luck and just remember that EPA staff will respond to leadership that takes into account the science and the opinions of individuals who have devoted their entire lives to fulfilling the mission of EPA – to protect human health and the environment. We understand that our positions may not always prevail, but please take the time to listen to expert voices that might differ from yours and your immediate staff. You may be surprised that you can find common ground on many issues. The health of the American people and our country depends on you.

Michael Cox

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US EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-1597  
cox.michael@epa.gov

**From:** Cox, Michael  
**To:** (b)(6) MCox personal  
**Subject:** Contacts  
**Date:** Friday, March 31, 2017 11:36:00 AM

---

Adams, Angela <Adams.Angela@epa.gov>; Chance Asher <cash461@ecy.wa.gov>; Cox, Michael <Cox.Michael@epa.gov>; Eliza Ghitis <eghitis@nwifc.org>; Feifel, Kirsten (DNR <Kirsten.Feifel@dnr.wa.gov>; Helbrecht, Lynn M (DFW <Lynn.Helbrecht@dfw.wa.gov>; Jessica Engel <Jessica.Engel@kingcounty.gov>; John\_Mankowski@fws.gov; kmcgourty@psrc.org; Kuharic, Matt <Matt.Kuharic@kingcounty.gov>; LaBarge, Amy <Amy.LaBarge@seattle.gov>; Marnie Boardman <marnie.boardman@doh.wa.gov>; Mary Mahaffy <mary\_mahaffy@fws.gov>; Meghan Kearney <meghan\_earney@fws.gov>; paul.fleming@seattle.gov; Phillips, John <John.Phillips@kingcounty.gov>; Rahman, Janice <Janice.Rahman@kingcounty.gov>; Raymond, Crystal <Crystal.Raymond@seattle.gov>; Roalkvam, Carol <roalkvc@wsdot.wa.gov>; Sarah Rees <sare461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Siemann, Dan (DNR <Dan.Siemann@dnr.wa.gov>; Simmonds, Jim <Jim.Simmonds@kingcounty.gov>; Vanderhoof, Jennifer <Jennifer.Vanderhoof@kingcounty.gov>

Bob Heinith (b)(6) personal email Charlie Luce <cluce@fs.fed.us>; Cox, Michael <Cox.Michael@epa.gov>; Dan Isaaak <disaak@fs.fed.us>; David Patte <david\_patte@fws.gov>; gjfuhrer@usgs.gov; Ivan Arismendi <ivan.arismendi@oregonstate.edu>; Jason Dunham <jdunham@usgs.gov>; Jill Hardiman <jhardiman@usgs.gov>; John Yearsley <yearsley@hydro.washington.edu>; Keenan, Dru <keenan.dru@epa.gov>; Klein, Steve <Klein.Steve@epa.gov>; Labiosa, Rochelle <labiosa.rochelle@epa.gov>; Lynn Helbrecht <lynn.helbrecht@dfw.wa.gov>; Mary Mahaffy <mary\_mahaffy@fws.gov>; Palmer, John <Palmer.John@epa.gov>; Stewart Rounds <sarounds@usgs.gov>; Tim Beechie <tim.beechie@noaa.gov>; Tim Mayer [tim\\_mayer@fws.gov](mailto:tim_mayer@fws.gov)

Adam.Chambers@por.usda.gov; alkaseweter@bpa.gov; amit.armstrong@fhwa.dot.gov; andrea.ray@noaa.gov; Beedlow, Peter <Beedlow.Peter@epa.gov>; bgravenmier@fs.fed.us; BHorsburgh@usbr.gov; bill.obeirne@noaa.gov; bill.peterson@noaa.gov; Brent.ingram@dot.gov; Bryce\_Bohn@blm.gov; bvhorne@fs.fed.us; Cat\_Hawkins\_Hoffman@nps.gov; chris.toole@noaa.gov; chris\_lauver@nps.gov; Cox, Michael <Cox.Michael@epa.gov>; crammond@usgs.gov; david.redhorse@bia.gov; Don\_Campton@fws.gov; Duncan, Bruce <Duncan.Bruce@epa.gov>; Elleman, Robert <Elleman.Robert@epa.gov>; espytlak@bpa.gov; george.hart1@navy.mil; handerse@blm.gov; jbayer@usgs.gov; jcuhaciyan@usbr.gov; jdunham@usgs.gov; jhardiman@usgs.gov; jkstier@bpa.gov; John\_Mankowski@fws.gov; jpackard@fs.fed.us; kabennett@fs.fed.us; Keith.Hatch@bia.gov; Kelly, Joyce <Kelly.Joyce@epa.gov>; kim\_titus@blm.gov; Klein, Steve <Klein.Steve@epa.gov>; kljones@usgs.gov; laurie\_lee\_jenkins@nps.gov; levers@blm.gov; lhayward@uw.edu; lief\_horwitz@usgs.gov; lisa.crozier@noaa.gov; ljkelly@blm.gov; mark\_brown@blm.gov; Martin.Don@epamail.epa.gov; Mary\_Mahaffy@fws.gov; Meghan\_earney@fws.gov; mgannett@usgs.gov; michael\_hudson@fws.gov; michelle.mcclure@noaa.gov; mttidwell@bpa.gov; nancy.munn@noaa.gov; ndecrappeo@usgs.gov; Powers, David <Powers.David@epa.gov>; Rebecca.J.Weiss@usace.army.mil; Rebecca.lunde@noaa.gov; Regina\_Rochefort@nps.gov; Richard.Domingue@noaa.gov; ron.raney@or.usda.gov; rreagan@usgs.gov; ruth.howell@noaa.gov; Sean\_Finn@fws.gov; Sheldrake, Beth <sheldrake.beth@epa.gov>; tdemeo@fs.fed.us;

Thomas.wainwright@noaa.gov; Tim\_Mayer@fws.gov; timi.vann@noaa.gov;  
Todd\_Hopkins@fws.gov; TTurner@usbr.gov; [Yvette\\_Converse@fws.gov](mailto:Yvette_Converse@fws.gov)

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Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-1597  
cox.michael@epa.gov

**From:** [Grass, Running](#)  
**To:** [Cox, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Mike Cox Retirement: Thanks  
**Date:** Friday, March 31, 2017 1:41:49 PM

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(b) (6)

Running-Grass  
Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region 10  
Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, Mail Stop ETPA-087  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140  
206.553.2899

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**From:** Cox, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, March 31, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** R10-OMP Mail Group <R10OMP\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-OERA Mail Group <R10-OERA\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-ECL Mail Group <R10ECL\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-OWW Mail Group <R10OWW\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-ORC Mail Group <R10ORC\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-OAW Mail Group <R10OAW\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-AOO Mail Group <R10AOO\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-IOO Mail Group <R10IOO\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-OOO Mail Group <R10OOO\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-WOO Mail Group <R10WOO\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>; R10-OCE Mail Group <R10OCE\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Williamson, Ann <Williamson.Ann@epa.gov>; Kelly, Joyce <Kelly.Joyce@epa.gov>; Dunbar, Bill <dunbar.bill@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; Pirzadeh, Michelle <Pirzadeh.Michelle@epa.gov>; Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Davis, Michelle V. <Davis.MichelleV@epa.gov>; Thomas, Sally <Thomas.Sally@epa.gov>; Grass, Running <Grass.Running@epa.gov>; Tyler, Kendra <Tyler.Kendra@epa.gov>; Philip, Jeff <Philip.Jeff@epa.gov>; MacIntyre, Mark <Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov>; Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Zokan, Jim <Zokan.Jim@epa.gov>; Herbst, John <herbst.john@epa.gov>; Conbere, Susan <Conbere.Susan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Mike Cox Retirement: Thanks

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



I have also attached a letter I wrote to Administrator Pruitt, Don Benton and Doug Ericksen expressing some of my concerns and I hope voicing some of your concerns.

(b) (6)



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**From:** [Cox, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Williamson, Ann](#); [Anderson-Carnahan, Linda](#); [Hamlin, Tim](#); [Edmondson, Lucy](#); [Salazar, Vicky](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-up from today's Climate and Sustainability Small Group Discussion  
**Date:** Friday, March 31, 2017 11:01:00 AM

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Ann/Linda/Vicky,

I want to apologize for my outburst yesterday. It was not directed at you. The conversation we were having was the right one. It goes without saying I respect you all very much and consider you the best we have at the Region. The past few days had just made me angry and I expressed it inappropriately. Water under the bridge.

Good luck and we will stay in touch.

Michael Cox  
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US EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-1597  
[cox.michael@epa.gov](mailto:cox.michael@epa.gov)

---

**From:** Williamson, Ann  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** Anderson-Carnahan, Linda <[Anderson-Carnahan.Linda@epa.gov](mailto:Anderson-Carnahan.Linda@epa.gov)>; Hamlin, Tim <[Hamlin.Tim@epa.gov](mailto:Hamlin.Tim@epa.gov)>; Edmondson, Lucy <[Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov](mailto:Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov)>; Salazar, Vicky <[Salazar.Vicky@epa.gov](mailto:Salazar.Vicky@epa.gov)>; Cox, Michael <[Cox.Michael@epa.gov](mailto:Cox.Michael@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Follow-up from today's Climate and Sustainability Small Group Discussion

Hi Everyone,

A couple of things, one of which I forgot to mention, from today's meeting:

- 1) I followed up with Katherine Brown, one of Tribal Coordinators who is responsible for (among many other things!!) the EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPS). Recall that our small group discussed at our prior meeting in February about having Katherine come to a future meeting to discuss ETEPS, the role and function of our Programs' Tribal Specialists relative to their respective Office's ETEP content, and whether/how ETEPS were used to inform the CES Action Plan elements. Not sure at this point and particularly after today's meeting, it's timely or relevant to invite her to come and address these topics. I talked to her several weeks ago and she is amenable...**let me know if you'd still like to have her come and speak to these issues.**
- 2) As mentioned today, RAD is in the process of identifying one (1) representative for RAD to the CES Team. We have yet to communicate this plan with all affected staff. In looking through admittedly older correspondence on this topic when the Team was still nascent, many Offices had multiple reps...but I'm assuming that is no longer the case. Please confirm! And, when we do close the loop with all affected staff, I'll send a formal communication indicating our decision. Until then, this matter is 'close hold', please.

3) Today's discussion was difficult. I want everyone to know that I respect you all. You're great colleagues, trying to do the right thing. Let's continue to do that regardless.

Ann Williamson, ORA/RAD Associate Director  
US EPA Region 10  
1200 6th Avenue, M/S RAD-202  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
(206) 553-2739

**From:** [Cox, Michael](#)  
**To:** (b)(6) MCox personal email  
**Subject:** FW: Presentation by Administrator Pruitt: Friendly suggestions for next presentation  
**Date:** Friday, March 31, 2017 12:52:00 PM

---

Michael Cox  
Office of Environmental Assessment  
US EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-1597  
cox.michael@epa.gov

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**From:** Benton, Donald  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 7:51 AM  
**To:** Cox, Michael <Cox.Michael@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Presentation by Administrator Pruitt: Friendly suggestions for next presentation

Thank you Michael, I will be sure Mr. Pruitt or his COS have your suggestions.

Don  
Senator Don Benton  
Senior White House Advisor  
Office of the Administrator  
202.564.4711



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**From:** Cox, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2017 3:17 PM  
**To:** Ericksen, Doug <[ericksen.doug@epa.gov](mailto:ericksen.doug@epa.gov)>; Benton, Donald <[benton.donald@epa.gov](mailto:benton.donald@epa.gov)>; Schnare, David <[schnare.david@epa.gov](mailto:schnare.david@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cox, Michael <[Cox.Michael@epa.gov](mailto:Cox.Michael@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Presentation by Administrator Pruitt: Friendly suggestions for next presentation

I wanted to pass along some friendly suggestions from a fellow Pacific Northwesterner.

I started working for EPA in 1987 (I actually worked with Dave on the Lead/Copper Drinking Water Rule. He may not remember me) and have heard several new Administrators first speeches.

I thought Administrators Pruitt's presentation was good especially when he discussed the importance of listening and learning.

I understand this was his introduction to EPA staff and it was short, but I had a few suggestions for future speeches to EPA employees.

1. **Science:** I did not hear much about science. For many of us at EPA, using the best science is the backbone of the work we do. Suggest emphasizing the use of science.
2. **Tribes:** Did not hear anything about Tribes. They are a critical partner and as you know we have specific treaty obligations towards tribes. Suggest including tribes as partners along with states and others.
3. **Human Health:** As you know our mission is to protect human health and the environment. I heard a lot about the environment but not much, if anything, about human health. Suggest emphasizing both.
4. **Questions:** I understand the intent of the first speech was to introduce himself, but in the future I would suggest taking questions. While I understand this can be challenging, I think to gain credibility it is important. A past Administrator came to Seattle and her staff told us very clearly that we could not ask questions. We could submit written questions but not ask directly. I think it sends a very bad message to staff if the leader of the organization is not willing to answer questions.
5. **Quote:** The quote Administrator Pruitt provided from John Muir was good. However, subsequent to that, some people went and found the whole quote, which conveys a different meaning read in whole than I think Administrator Pruitt wanted to convey.

Anyway. Good luck.

Michael Cox  
Office of Environmental Assessment  
US EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-1597  
[cox.michael@epa.gov](mailto:cox.michael@epa.gov)

Request Details

Tracking Number : EPA-HQ-2017-010087



Request Information

Full Name : Mr. Allan Blutstein  
Organization : NTK Network

Date Submitted : 08/02/2017  
Closed Date : 08/25/2017  
Final Disposition : Full grant

Description :

All emails sent by Elizabeth ("Betsy") Southerland, former director of science and technology at the Office of Water, that mention or refer to her departure from the agency. The time period of the requested records is July 24, 2017, through August 1, 2017.

Released Records

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1

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<input type="checkbox"/>	HQ-2017-010087_2	PDF	0.07	08/25/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	HQ-2017-010087_4	PDF	0.07	08/25/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	HQ-2017-010087_5	PDF	0.06	08/25/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	HQ-2017-010087_6	PDF	0.07	08/25/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	HQ-2017-010087_7	PDF	0.01	08/25/2017	Request
<input type="checkbox"/>	HQ-2017-010087_8	PDF	0.01	08/25/2017	Request

8 records found, displaying all records.

1

I wish I could do it all over again! I have had the most wonderful 40 years working in environmental protection. Over those years, I have worked for a private consulting firm, local government, state government and finally EPA's Water and Superfund programs. In every one of those organizations, I had the privilege of working with dedicated professionals from many different fields. These are people who first spent years studying science, engineering, economics, and statistics and then spent years on the job assessing the public health and ecological impacts of pollution, identifying the causes of those impacts, and devising fixes. During my 40 years working on environmental protection, our country has made enormous strides preventing and remediating pollution, led by those highly trained professionals who work alongside local communities, states, companies and the general public.

It's hard to believe, but as recently as 30 years ago, Nonpoint Sources of Pollution were considered to be a hoax and fake news in many states. It has only been about 30 years since Congress enacted the Superfund laws that require industries to take responsibility for cleaning up toxic pollution in the environment. Finally, it has only been about 20 years since drinking water utilities began installing new treatment processes to manage carcinogenic disinfection byproducts and microbial contaminants like Cryptosporidium.

So, looking back over my 40-year career in environmental protection, what jumps out is that sooner or later, requirements and practices for the "right thing" for the environment take hold and the claims of "hoax" and "fake news" fall by the wayside. And EPA has been the guiding light to make the "right thing" happen for the greater good, including public health and safety and, without being melodramatic, for our country's fair share of protection for the planet

In his first address to EPA staff, the new Administrator admonished us for acting outside legal mandates and running roughshod over states' rights. The Administrator subsequently assured the states that he will initiate a cooperative federalism approach in which the power to govern is finally shared between EPA and the states. In fact, EPA has always followed a cooperative federalism approach since most environmental programs are delegated to states and tribes who carry out the majority of monitoring, permitting, inspections, and enforcement actions. All the federal environmental statutes set national standards for protection of public health and the environment because Congress recognized that some states might be willing, for economic or other reasons, to tolerate much less protection than their neighboring states. To ensure that all states can provide clean air and water not only to their own residents but to the residents of downwind/downstream states, EPA provides funding to states and tribes to support their implementation of the federal statutes. Under the new federalism, however, the President's FY18 budget proposes cuts to state and tribal funding as draconian as the cuts to EPA, while at the same time reassigning a number of EPA responsibilities to the states and tribes. If they want to maintain their current level of monitoring, permitting,

inspections, and enforcement, states will have to increase taxes and establish new user fees. Even if they are able to do this over time, the proposed FY18 budget cuts to state, tribal and federal environmental programs would result in thousands of jobs lost in the short term, in EPA, state and tribal governments, and the private environmental consulting firms which support those governmental agencies.

In addition to defunding implementation of existing environmental regulations at the local, state and federal level, the President goes further by requiring that any new regulation be accompanied by repeal of two existing regulations of equal or greater cost. To implement this "regulation trading" program, EPA will have to choose which Congressional law to ignore, and face litigation through costly citizen suits. This poses a real Sophie's choice for public health agencies like EPA. Should EPA repeal two existing rules protecting infants from neurotoxins in order to promulgate a new rule protecting adults from a newly discovered liver toxin? Faced with such painful choices, the best possible outcome for the American people would be regulatory paralysis where no new rules are released so that existing protections remain in place.

Unfortunately, even existing protections will not remain in place since the administration has also launched a repeal, replace, modify initiative which is not tied to issuing new rules. Any environmental protection rule promulgated at any time in the past may be repealed by this administration, as well as any science or technical document ever published by EPA. The new EPA Administrator already has repeals of 30 rules under consideration, one of which is the steam electric rule promulgated in 2015 after EPA spent years collecting data on power plants, millions of dollars conducting engineering and economic analyses of those data, and months responding to extensive public comment. The final rule required for the first time that the highly toxic wastes of coal fired electric plants be treated rather than poured untreated into large holding ponds where the toxic chemicals seep into ground water and overflow into surface water, contaminating public water supplies and private wells and poisoning fish and wildlife. The objective of the 2015 rule is to prevent repeats of the many environmental catastrophes caused by the failure of power company coal ash ponds, the most recent being the 70 mile long Duke Energy spill into the Dan River of North Carolina.

The major budget cuts to EPA, state and tribal environmental programs and the potential repeal of many existing regulations and science documents is not a cooperative federalism approach. It is an industry deregulation approach based on abandonment of the polluter pays principle that underlies all environmental statutes and regulations. When the federal government abandons the polluter pays principle, it will be up to the states, tribes and local government to decide how much of the polluters bills they will ask their residents to take on. The best case for our children and grandchildren is that they will pay the polluters bills through increased state taxes, new user fees, and higher water and sewer bills. The worst case is that they will have to live

with increased public health and safety risks and a degraded environment. Environmental catastrophes have often occurred when there was a decision to roll the dice and achieve a short term gain at the risk of disastrous long term costs --- Hurricane Katrina where small savings in flood protection levees resulted in one of the most catastrophic flooding and environmental disasters in U.S. history and Flint, Michigan where minimal costs for corrosion control or an alternative water supply were dwarfed by the subsequent lead contamination of children..

Today the environmental field is suffering from the temporary triumph of myth over truth. The truth is there is NO war on coal, there is NO economic crisis caused by environmental protection, and climate change IS caused by man's activities. It may take a few years and even an environmental disaster, but I am confident that Congress and the courts will eventually restore all the environmental protections repealed by this administration because the majority of the American people recognize that this protection of public health and safety is right and it is just.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and professionalism. It has been a joy to work with you, and I wish you all the best.

**From:** Southerland, Elizabeth  
**To:** [Flaherty, Colleen](#)  
**Subject:** My retirement questions  
**Date:** Saturday, July 22, 2017 2:44:46 PM

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I have been sad but this exercise cheered me up! I have come up with alternative questions which spare my husband and son from the Vaseline story but still are relatively amusing. Q1. How were you hired at EPA? Q2. What was your favorite EPA building to work in? Q3. What was your most embarrassing moment at EPA? Q4. What was your biggest surprise at EPA? Q5. What was your most religious experience at EPA?

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Godfrey, Annie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Best wishes  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 4:41:00 PM

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Thanks so much! I have enjoyed working with you over these past 5 very busy years, and I wish you all the best!

---

**From:** Godfrey, Annie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 3:58 PM  
**To:** Southerland, Elizabeth <Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Best wishes

Betsy, I have been doing some records management and going down memory lane on some of the “fun” activities that I have enjoyed with you and others at HQ – Florida nutrient criteria being the most notable. I always felt that you played a strong role in getting things done at EPA. I respected your ability to take in all of the facts and make good decisions on how to move forward. Your retirement will be a big loss for the Office of Water. It sounds like there are some family issues that may be stressful for you at this time; I hope that they get better soon and you can enjoy a wonderful retirement.

Annie Godfrey  
Chief, Water Quality Standards Section  
Water Quality Program Branch, EPA Region 4  
404-562-9967

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Godfrey, Annie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Best wishes  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 4:41:00 PM

---

Thanks so much! I have enjoyed working with you over these past 5 very busy years, and I wish you all the best!

---

**From:** Godfrey, Annie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 3:58 PM  
**To:** Southerland, Elizabeth <[Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Best wishes

Betsy, I have been doing some records management and going down memory lane on some of the “fun” activities that I have enjoyed with you and others at HQ – Florida nutrient criteria being the most notable. I always felt that you played a strong role in getting things done at EPA. I respected your ability to take in all of the facts and make good decisions on how to move forward. Your retirement will be a big loss for the Office of Water. It sounds like there are some family issues that may be stressful for you at this time; I hope that they get better soon and you can enjoy a wonderful retirement.

Annie Godfrey  
Chief, Water Quality Standards Section  
Water Quality Program Branch, EPA Region 4  
404-562-9967

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Tapia, Cecilia](#)  
**Cc:** [Flournoy, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Re: favor  
**Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 7:31:15 AM

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We would love to have you in the Environmental Protection Network BUT you have to be retired. Current EPA employees can't talk to the press without supervision from political leaders.... I loved working with you in Superfund!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 24, 2017, at 9:55 AM, Tapia, Cecilia <[Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov](mailto:Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov)> wrote:

Great. Thanks for your info. You're my favorite HQ person. It's nice to have worked with someone that makes science based decisions.

If it's allowable I would love to help the new team since the Federal regs are so convoluted.

Thanks

***Cecilia Tapia***

*Director, Environmental Sciences & Technology Division*

*U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7*

*11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219*

*Phone: (913)551-7733 Cell: (913)449-4171 Email:[tapia.cecilia@epa.gov](mailto:tapia.cecilia@epa.gov)*

---

**From:** Southerland, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2017 4:09 PM  
**To:** Flournoy, Karen <[Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov](mailto:Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tapia, Cecilia <[Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov](mailto:Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: favor

You are the best people ever! My home address is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. My email is [REDACTED]. Let's definitely keep in touch. I am crazy about you and Cecilia! You know the EPA alumnae group would love to have you sign up. They help educate reporters and Congressional staffers during this Trump debacle. They are online if you are interested.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 21, 2017, at 3:12 PM, Flournoy, Karen <[Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov](mailto:Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov)> wrote:

Betsy-Cecilia Tapia and I would like to send you a happy retirement package. Could you send me your mailing address and email so Cecilia and I can keep in touch with you (one of our VERY favorite HQ folks)!!! Thanks  
karen flournoy

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Kloss, Christopher](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Good Luck  
**Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:03:00 AM

---

So sorry you won't be able to make the party. I have loved working with you over the years. Keep your mind focused on the long term over these next 4 years, and you will keep your positive energy. Never let anyone rob you of that.

---

**From:** Kloss, Christopher  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** Southerland, Elizabeth <[Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Good Luck

Hey Betsy,

I, sadly, don't think I will be able to make it over to your event but I did want to pass along my best wishes for your retirement. I think that you know how highly we all regard you professionally; on a personal level, you have always brought such joy and positivity to your work that it genuinely enhances the workplace for all of us. I will miss that.

I hope that you enjoy the transition and find increased sanity outside of these walls.

Chris

---

Chris Kloss  
US EPA Office of Water  
Municipal Branch – Water Permits Division  
202.564.1438 | [kloss.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:kloss.christopher@epa.gov)

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Nickerson, William](#)  
**Subject:** RE: I'm hearing things here.....  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2017 5:07:00 PM

---

Holy Cow, you didn't know I was retiring on July 27????? Please come to my fabulous farewell from 2 to 5 PM on Thursday at Mackey's. 1306 G St NW.

---

**From:** Nickerson, William  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2017 4:10 PM  
**To:** Southerland, Elizabeth <Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** I'm hearing things here.....

....anything you want to tell me....?

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Alexandra Dapolito Dunn](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Retirement Congratulations Letter!  
**Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:01:00 AM

---

Can't thank you enough for this wonderful letter! I have loved working with you over the years. I certainly intend to continue working in this field in a volunteer capacity so know that our paths may cross in the future. I hope we have time to talk confidentially at today's retirement party.

**From:** Alexandra Dapolito Dunn [mailto:[adunn@ecos.org](mailto:adunn@ecos.org)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:18 AM  
**To:** Southerland, Elizabeth <[Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Best-Wong, Benita <[Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov](mailto:Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov)>; Shapiro, Mike <[Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov](mailto:Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Flaherty, Colleen <[Flaherty.Colleen@epa.gov](mailto:Flaherty.Colleen@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Retirement Congratulations Letter!

Betsy,

On behalf of ECOS, to you, a letter and a toast!

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Esq.

Executive Director & General Counsel

Environmental Council of the States

[50 F Street, NW, Suite 350](#)

[Washington, DC 20001](#)

202-266-4929 (T); 202-230-4247 (C); 202-266-4937 (F)

[adunn@ecos.org](mailto:adunn@ecos.org); Twitter @ECOSates

See my research: <http://ssrn.com/author=1356207>

Save the Date! ECOS' Fall Meeting, 9/11-13/17, Jackson, WY [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org)

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Matuszko, Jan](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you  
**Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:04:34 PM

---

I have loved working with you and know you will continue to have a great career at EPA. Keep focused on long term results, and don't let the temporary setbacks of these next 4 years rob you of your positive energy. I will do everything I can on the outside to help EPA and especially OST.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 27, 2017, at 11:23 AM, Matuszko, Jan <Matuszko.Jan@epa.gov> wrote:

>

> Betsy,

>

> I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the award I received. I truly was honored to receive it. It means a lot to me because it came from you.

>

> I am so disappointed that I will not be able to attend the celebration in your honor today and that I won't get the opportunity to say goodbye to you in person. I am still trying to wrap my brain around the idea that you aren't just going on vacation! It's been amazing working with you. You empower me to do my job well and enable me to do that for others. I think that's a critical trait in a leader. Plus, you always bring light and brevity to any situation which has made a lot of things so much more pleasurable! I will most miss brainstorming with you as I know it's always going to be an interesting conversation.

>

> I know you are going to enjoy your retirement and continue to give 150 percent to everything you do. You simply don't know how to be any other way!

>

> Take care,

> Jan

>

> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Southerland, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Adams, Elizabeth](#)  
**Subject:** Re: urgent please- help your mentee needs you :-)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 7:32:13 AM

---

Of course I will do this today! Maybe you did not receive my email about my retirement, but I sent it to you in June as soon as I found out I needed to retire to help out with family medical care. So sorry you didn't get that early heads up! You will love the ARD job and will be a great asset to the Superfund program which is THE priority of the new Administrator. I wish you all the best!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 25, 2017, at 10:27 PM, Adams, Elizabeth <Adams.Elizabeth@epa.gov> wrote:

>

> HI Betsy- This is Elizabeth here. I heard that you are retiring! That's awesome for you. I'm hoping that you can do me one last favor. I am proposing my detail to be the director of the Assessment and Remediation Division of OSRTI in OLEM to the ERB on Thursday, July 27. How was that for a lot of acronyms in one sentence! I realize I will need to get a new mentor soon, but are you willing to please sign and scan my attached pdf version of my Exec Development Plan and return it to me (with a cc to Hitch Peabody at EPA)? It is due to Hitch on Wednesday. Hopefully, I'll have time to scan and send the copy that has Alexis' signature on it too, but if you cc it to him when you send it back to me it will be extra insurance that he has everything he needs. I've also included the description of my detail and what I expect to gain from it. Please know you don't need to read it- I know your time is very precious right now- I just wanted to include it so you had the background on the detail.

>

> I wish you all the happiness and health that you deserve in the coming years. You've done so much for EPA and the environment.

>

> Thank you so much and take care,

> Elizabeth

>

> Elizabeth J. Adams

> Acting Director Air Division

> US EPA Region 9

> work 415-972-3183

> cell: 415-297-4308

>

> <elizabeth adams Exec Development Plan 7-2017.pdf>

> <SESCDP Detail for E Adams OLEM .doc>



## Request Information

Full Name : Allan L. Blutstein  
 Organization : America Rising

Date Submitted : 03/28/2017  
 Closed Date : 05/05/2017  
 Final Disposition : Partial grant/partial denial

## Description :

1. All email sent by Dr. Priscilla Oliver (Atlanta) on December 7, 2016 that mentions Scott Pruitt; and 2. All email sent by Dr. Oliver on March 28, 2017 that mentions President Trump.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>FOIA 005413 Pricilla Oliver_Redacted</i>	PDF	1.88	05/05/2017	Request

One record found.

1

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## Oliver, Priscilla

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**From:** Oliver, Priscilla  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 4:47 PM  
**To:** Steve Hopkins; kellee@afge.org  
**Subject:** FW: Breaking News: Trump taps Oklahoma attorney general to lead EPA

**From:** John J O'Grady [mailto:presidentcouncil238@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 3:18 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Denise <Morrison.Denise@epa.gov>; Schulze, Jeanne <Schulze.Jeanne@epa.gov>; Berkley, Jim <Berkley.Jim@epa.gov>; Solis, Ricardo <solis.ricardo@epa.gov>; Wiener, Russell <Wiener.Russell@epa.gov>; Steve Hopkins <(b) (6)>; Tseng, Antony <Tseng.Antony@epa.gov>; Copt, Britta <Copt.Britta@epa.gov>; Steib, Clovis <steib.clovis@epa.gov>; Miller, Dennis <miller.dennise@epa.gov>; Oliver, Priscilla <Oliver.Priscilla@epa.gov>; Morton, Gary <Morton.Gary@epa.gov>; Myers, Lucretia <MYERS.LUCRETIA@EPA.GOV>; Coryell, Mark <coryell.mark@epa.gov>; Mikulka, Michael <mikulka.michael@epa.gov>; Greaves, Natasha <Greaves.Natasha@epa.gov>; James, Nathaniel <james.nathaniel@epa.gov>; Saracco, Silvia <Saracco.Silvia@epa.gov>; Calder, Steven <Calder.Steve@epa.gov>; Estrada, Thelma <Estrada.Thelma@epa.gov>; O'Grady, John <Ogrady.Johnj@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Breaking News: Trump taps Oklahoma attorney general to lead EPA

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **The Hill** <thehill@email.thehill.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 7, 2016 at 1:33 PM  
**Subject:** Breaking News: Trump taps Oklahoma attorney general to lead EPA  
**To:** Subscriber <PresidentCouncil238@gmail.com>

[View in your browser](#)



**Trump taps Oklahoma attorney general to lead EPA**

President-elect Donald Trump plans to nominate Scott Pruitt, the Republican attorney general of Oklahoma and a frequent legal adversary to President Obama, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), according to multiple reports.

[Read the full story here](#)

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In Solidarity!

John J. O'Grady

John J. O'Grady, President  
AFGE Council 238  
P.O. Box 2546  
Chicago, IL 60690

Cell Phone: 630.699.6106

*Respect, Engagement, Accountability, Common Goals, Honesty*

**Oliver, Priscilla**

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**From:** Oliver, Priscilla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 4:02 PM  
**To:** 'region4afge@gmail.com'; '(b) (6) [REDACTED]'  
**Subject:** FW: Our Big Day Today

**Importance:** High

**Expires:** Saturday, May 27, 2017 12:00 AM

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**From:** Message from the Chief of Staff  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** Message from the Chief of Staff <messagefromthechiefstaff@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Our Big Day Today  
**Importance:** High



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF

This email message is being sent to EPA employees.

Dear Colleagues,

As you may already know, EPA is hosting President Donald Trump this afternoon for the signing of an executive order that calls for reviews of regulations impacting domestic energy use and production. This is an important moment for the EPA. As the Administrator has mentioned many times, we do not have to choose between environmental protection and economic development. Protecting human health and the environment can be achieved while working together towards economic prosperity for all American families. From permitting, to monitoring, to enforcement, we all understand that our ultimate goal is to serve the American people and ensure our approach is inclusive and fair.

Although there is limited space at the event, there are a few options for viewing it:

- **EPAtv Viewers:** The event will be broadcast through EPAtv. For those watching on EPA's network, launch Internet Explorer and click on the following link <http://epatv.epa.gov>. If prompted for a username and password, enter your correct information. Remember, EPAtv only works on Internet Explorer.

- **VTC:** Due to the limited capacity of EPA tv, employees are encouraged to gather in VTC-capable rooms to watch the event.
- **Recorded Event:** For employees unable to watch live, the recorded event will be available on EPA tv On-Demand by 2 p.m. (EDT) on March 29.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Jackson  
Chief of Staff