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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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March 28, 2018

The Honorable Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.
Inspector General
U.S. Environmental and Protection Agency (EPA)
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Elkins:

I write to request that the Office of Inspector General conduct an immediate review of Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to prevent fraud related to employee time and attendance, including an investigation of potential fraud committed by Administrator Pruitt's political staff. Specifically, I have been informed that Ms. Samantha Dravis, Associate Administrator of EPA's Office of Policy, did not attend work or perform her duties for much if not all of the months of November 2017–January 2018. I am additionally informed that Ms. Dravis was likely compensated as a full-time employee throughout that time.

This is not the first time that reports of time and attendance problems have plagued the agency. In 2013, EPA learned that John Beale, a senior career official, had defrauded the agency for years by claiming that his months-long absences from work were attributable to his undercover work for the CIA. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison¹ and the case was the subject of considerable Congressional² interest.³ This matter also led to several reports, written by EPA⁴ and by you⁵, recommending improvements in EPA's oversight of employee time and attendance practices.

The information my office received, particularly in light of the fact that Ms. Dravis is a senior political appointee, raises questions about whether EPA is adhering to its corrective actions regarding employee time and attendance. These actions, including timekeeping oversight, were implemented to ensure that nothing like John Beale's criminal fraud "could ever happen at EPA again."⁶ I request that you quickly investigate the specific allegations surrounding the information I have received regarding Ms. Dravis, as well as any related systemic problems in EPA's oversight of its employee time and attendance practices.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours Sincerely,



Tom Carper
Ranking Member

¹ https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/ig_statement_sentencing_of_john_c_beale_12-18-13_.pdf

² <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases-republican?ID=2090BF37-CCA5-8FA8-CEF1-98C820804D1E>

³ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-113hhrg85907/pdf/CHRG-113hhrg85907.pdf>

⁴ https://www.eenews.net/assets/2014/04/25/document_gw_07.pdf

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/20150615-15-p-0167.pdf>

⁶ https://www.eenews.net/assets/2014/04/25/document_gw_07.pdf