



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 30, 2021

OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior  
Environment and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior  
Environment and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior  
Environment and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior  
Environment and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Pingree, Chairman Merkley and Ranking Members Joyce and Murkowski:

I am writing to inform you that the EPA is planning to spend approximately \$140,000 to upgrade audio-video equipment in 14 conference rooms under the control of the agency's presidential appointees. This includes conference rooms controlled by the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and Assistant Administrators. While these rooms are under the presidential appointees' control, they are widely used by all parts of the agency.

These upgrades are part of a larger effort to upgrade the major EPA conference rooms' capabilities by replacing end-of-life, legacy equipment to better meet the needs of a regionally dispersed workforce with a substantial number of employees working remotely. This new hardware integrates with the agency's laptops and conference applications to provide seamless meetings and communications with remote employees. This will improve workforce communications and reduce the incidence of technical mishaps, such as feedback loops, distortions, video and audio interruptions and other communication issues.

This notice is being provided in compliance with section 710 in the governmentwide administrative provisions of each year's appropriations act, which provides that during the period in which any presidential appointee holds office, no funds may be obligated or expended in excess of \$5,000 to furnish, redecorate, purchase furniture for, or make improvements to the appointee's office, unless advance notice is transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act*, 2021, Pub. L. 116-260, Div. E, Title VII, § 710 (2020))

Although this action is not being initiated upon the request of any presidential appointee nor under their direction, the EPA is informing the Committees on Appropriations to ensure full compliance with Section 710.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Ed Walsh at 202-564-4594 or [Walsh.Ed@epa.gov](mailto:Walsh.Ed@epa.gov), if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

DAVID  
BLOOM

Digitally signed by  
DAVID BLOOM  
Date: 2021.03.30  
09:26:45 -04'00'

David A. Bloom  
Acting Chief Financial Officer