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CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

May 4, 2018

The Honorable E. Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I write to request additional information regarding your real estate dealings with lobbyists during your tenure as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator and as an Oklahoma state legislator. I questioned you about your legally dubious real estate transactions last week when you testified before the Subcommittee on Environment, but further information is needed in light of your incomplete answers and troubling new developments.<sup>1</sup>

In your testimony before the Subcommittee last week, you failed to disclose significant details concerning your 2003 purchase of a luxury home in Oklahoma City. According to a recent report in the *New York Times*, you purchased the home with Justin Whitefield, a registered lobbyist who, at the time, was pursuing business-friendly changes to Oklahoma's workers' compensation rules, which you allegedly helped negotiate.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Whitefield, yourself, and four other owners reportedly used a limited liability company, Capitol House L.L.C. (Capitol House), to purchase the home.<sup>3</sup> The seller, Marsha Lindsey, was a telecommunications lobbyist for SBC Oklahoma, and sold the property at a significant discount of approximately \$100,000.<sup>4</sup> SBC Oklahoma reportedly offset this amount in Ms. Lindsey's retirement package.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> House Committee on Energy and Commerce, *Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2019 Environmental Protection Agency Budget*, 115th Cong. (Apr. 26, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> *Pruitt's Coziness with Lobbyists Includes Secretly Buying a House with One*, *New York Times* (May 3, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

Your incomplete testimony leaves key questions unanswered concerning this transaction. You testified that you paid for one sixth of the purchase price, and according to reports, you purchased the home with Kenneth Wagner, who now serves as a political appointee at EPA and previously served as treasurer of your political action committee,<sup>7</sup> as well as health care executive Jon Jiles.<sup>8</sup> However, the identity of two additional owners remains unknown.

You also apparently failed to disclose your interest in Capitol House in your financial disclosure filings, and in your testimony could not confirm whether you paid taxes on rental income received for a room on the property rented to another Republican lawmaker.<sup>9</sup>

Given your history of real estate transactions with lobbyists both in Oklahoma during your tenure as a state legislator and in Washington, D.C. while serving as EPA Administrator, and in light of these troubling developments, I ask that you respond to the following no later than May 11, 2018:

1. Provide the names and corresponding ownership share of all owners of Capitol House.
2. Provide documentation of your payment for and purchase of an ownership share in Capitol House, including the terms of the payment and the individual or entity who received the payment.
3. Provide copies of your financial disclosures disclosing your ownership interest in Capitol House.
4. Provide the name of the individual(s) who arranged for cash purchase of the Oklahoma City property and subsequent transfer of ownership to Capitol House.
5. Provide the name of the individual(s) who requested or arranged for Spirit Bank, where former EPA appointee Albert Kelly was chief executive, to approve a mortgage in the name of Capitol House.
6. Provide documentation demonstrating you paid taxes on all rental income received from Jim Dunlap or any other tenant who rented space on the property, including, but not limited to, Schedule K-1 tax forms.
7. Provide documentation of any proceeds you received for the 2005 sale of the property, including the amount and date received.

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<sup>7</sup> *Pruitt's Friend Joins Agency as Senior Adviser*, E&E News (Apr. 13, 2017).

<sup>8</sup> *Pruitt's Coziness with Lobbyists Includes Secretly Buying a House with One*, New York Times (May 3, 2018).

<sup>9</sup> *Scott Pruitt Before the EPA: Fancy Homes, a Shell Company and Friends with Money*, New York Times (Apr. 21, 2018).

8. Provide the overdue response to the Committee's April 2, 2018 letter on your lease with J. Steven Hart and his wife.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Tommy Walker of my staff at (202) 225-4431.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations