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April 13, 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 that you repay the U.S. Treasury and reimburse the American taxpayers for your unnecessary and profligate spending on an around-the-clock personal security detail. Despite your claim that this use of resources was warranted, internal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) documentation shows that was never the case. As a result, the EPA has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars on the salaries and the first-class travel arrangements of an unwarranted security detail.

The *Associated Press* reports that you have engaged a 20-person full-time security detail – more than three times as many agents as provided security for your predecessor – at a cost of approximately \$3 million a year.¹ For one brief trip to Italy, your around-the-clock security team cost taxpayers \$30,553.88 – an outrageous spending abuse.² From February through May 2017, your security costs totaled \$832,735.40. Over that same period, Administrator Gina McCarthy, who never employed 24-hour security during her tenure at the agency, spent only half that amount on her detail: \$463,165.04.³ This trend of outspending your predecessor continued throughout the first year of your tenure.

This spending on personal security occurred despite an internal EPA review conducted by the EPA Homeland Security Intelligence Team finding no “specific credible direct threat to the EPA

¹ Michael Biesecker, *AP reports EPA's Pruitt spent millions on security, travel*, Associated Press (April 7, 2018), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/federal_government/ap-sources-epa-chief-spent-millions-on-security-and-travel/2018/04/06/43392832-39fb-11e8-af3c-2123715f78df_story.html?utm_term=.61f3cac51e62

² Kevin Bogardus, *Security cost \$30K for Pruitt's Italy Trip*, E&E News (March 20, 2018), <https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060076873/>

³ Kevin Bogardus, *Big spike in security spending for Pruitt*, E&E News (July 5, 2018), <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060056958>

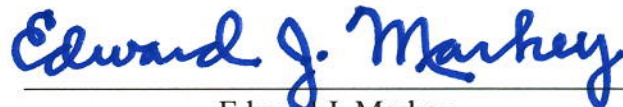
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Administrator.”⁴ One of the so-called threats that you reportedly used to justify your security expense was an email stating, “I am considering dumping the old paint I just scraped off of my home outside your office door.” And another was a postcard that stated, “CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL!!! We are watching you.” The internal EPA review also details how EPA Intelligence has “not seen any analysis to indicate why the Administrator would be at any greater risk on a commercial airline than any other passenger.” Together, this calls into question your use of first-class and private flights, as well as your personal around-the-clock security presence.

Your questionable security arrangements are now the subject of investigations by the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency, resulting in the expenditure of even more taxpayer dollars on top of the costs associated with your security expenses.

I ask that you reimburse the U.S. Treasury for your unnecessary and excessive security-related expenditures. The American taxpayers deserve their money back. Going forward, you must commit to bringing your security-related spending in line with your predecessors. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Griffith on my staff at (202) 224-2742.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

⁴ Letter from Senators Thomas R. Carper and Sheldon Whitehouse to Senator John Barrasso, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (April 10, 2018), <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4435259/Senators-Letter-About-E-P-A-Security-Spending.pdf>