



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MAR - 5 2019

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Beyer:

In your May 24, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG), you and several of your House colleagues asked the OIG to answer questions about now former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's legal defense fund. You expressed concern about the potential for special interests to "curry favor" with Mr. Pruitt by donating to his legal defense fund. You also asked that we help mitigate any potential conflicts of interest and provide as much information as we can about the fund.

On June 13, 2018, the OIG responded to your request by stating that the concerns raised in your letter should be addressed by EPA ethics officials or the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. We recently followed up with the EPA Office of General Counsel's (OGC's) Ethics Office to see whether a determination has been made regarding Mr. Pruitt's personal actions to establish a legal defense fund, and whether the fund complied with ethics rules.

The OGC's Ethics Office informed the OIG that it never had a conversation with Mr. Pruitt or his private attorney about the existence or establishment of a legal defense fund. In addition, no advice was given to Mr. Pruitt about the matter while he worked at the EPA. Based on this information and since Mr. Pruitt left the agency, no further OIG action is warranted.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the OIG. Similar letters are being sent to Representatives Nadler, Connolly, Lieu and Raskin. If you have questions about this or any other matter, please contact Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs, at (202) 566-0918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles J. Sheehan".

Charles J. Sheehan  
Acting Inspector General

cc: Justina Fugh, Senior Counsel for Ethics, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency