

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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November 14, 2017

Ms. Rebeckah Adcock  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ms. Adcock:

I am writing to request information and documents relating to your testimony this morning at the hearing before our Committee entitled, “Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check In: Part II.”

In September, you met with Committee staff about USDA’s regulatory reform task force. At that meeting, Committee staff asked you to provide the names of the individuals on the task force. You refused to do so, citing concern for the privacy of the task force members.

Last night, on November 13, 2017, the *New York Times* reported on the September meeting with Committee staff, as well as your refusal to provide the identities of task force members.<sup>1</sup>

During today’s hearing, you were asked why you refused to provide the identities of the task force to the Committee. You responded, “It is my understanding that that list has been forwarded to the Committee through our office of Congressional Relations.” You then were asked, “When was that?” You responded, “Could have been in the last few days, I’m not certain.”

In fact, the Chairman’s staff informed us that the list was provided to Republican Committee staff this morning—directly before the hearing—and only after the *New York Times* reported on your previous refusal.

When Democratic Members were informed of this fact, you were asked to clarify your testimony. In response to the question “You aren’t sure when it was submitted?”, you stated, “I’m not sure.”

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<sup>1</sup> *An Open Door for Pesticide Lobbyists at the U.S.D.A.*, *New York Times* (Nov. 13, 2017) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2017/11/13/business/trump-regulations-usda-lobbyists.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/13/business/trump-regulations-usda-lobbyists.html)).

These actions raise serious concerns about the truthfulness of your sworn testimony before the Committee. To clarify this matter, please respond to the following questions and provide the documents requested below:

1. Were you involved in discussions about whether, and when, to provide to the Committee the identities of Task Force members prior to the hearing?
2. Who else was involved in these discussions, was the *New York Times* story discussed, and who made the final decision to provide the list to the Committee?
3. When exactly did you learn that the list would be provided to the Committee?
4. Why were Democratic Committee staff not provided a copy of the list?
5. Please provide copies of all emails to or from you referring or relating to the task force and its members from September 1, 2017, through 8 p.m. on November 14, 2017.

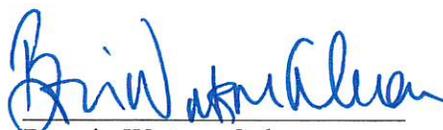
The same *New York Times* story also reported that you entered into an ethics agreement in which you pledged, for one year, to “not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know CropLife America is a party or represents a party.” According to this same report, however, you met with Kellie Bray, a lobbyist for CropLife, in May—soon after you started at USDA.

Please answer the following questions and produce the documents requested below regarding this matter:

6. Please list the dates, times, and subject matter of all meetings with Ms. Bray or any other CropLife officials, representatives, or agents since you began working at USDA.
7. Please provide copies of all inquiries to and responses from any ethics officials relating to the propriety of your participation in these meetings.
8. Please provide copies of all emails to or from you with lobbyists, employees, or representatives of any pesticide manufacturer or associated groups.

Thank you for your prompt cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Ms. Rebeckah Adcock, Senior Advisor

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Cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules

The Honorable Gary J. Palmer, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Val Butler Demings, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs