

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2018

The Honorable Jim Mattis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to request that you provide us the names and relevant biographical information of the employees who serve on your agency's Regulatory Reform Task Force.¹ On February 24, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13777, which requires each agency to create a Regulatory Reform Task Force to "evaluate existing regulations," "make recommendations to the agency head regarding their repeal, replacement, or modification," and identify regulations that "eliminate jobs, or inhibit job creation," "are outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective," or "impose costs that exceed benefits."² Accordingly, employees who serve on these Task Forces may play a significant role in proposing regulatory changes over the course of the Trump Administration.³

On August 7, 2017, we requested the names of Task Force participants from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. As we noted in our request, "the interests of the American public must be paramount when reviewing the worthiness of regulations," and it is therefore critical that these Task Forces maintain guards "against conflicts of interest, especially those in which industry lobbyists seek to overturn environmental and health protections for financial gain."⁴ To date, we have received no response to this request.

¹ Exec. Order No. 13777, *Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda* (Feb. 24, 2017), 82 Fed. Reg. 12285 (Mar. 1, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ See, e.g., Danielle Ivory & Robert Faturechi, *The Deep Industry Ties of Trump's Deregulation Teams*, N.Y. TIMES (July 11, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/11/business/the-deep-industry-ties-of-trumps-deregulation-teams.html).

⁴ Letter from U.S. Rep. Cummings, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, et al., to the Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management & Budget (Aug. 7, 2017) (online at https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/2017-08-7.%20EEC%20Connolly%20Conyers%20Cicilline%20to%20OMB_0.pdf).

Although some agencies have disclosed their Task Force members, your agency has not. In order to fulfill our congressional oversight responsibilities, we respectfully request that you provide, by February 20, 2018, the names of all Regulatory Reform Task Force members serving at your agency, as well as biographical information considered when selecting them. Please give this request your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



David N. Cicilline
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Regulatory
Reform, Commercial and
Antitrust Law

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman,
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Mark Meadows, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Government Operations,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Tom Marino, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law,
Committee on the Judiciary