

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Alexander Acosta
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Labor on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

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³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Health and Human Services on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

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An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

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May 16, 2019

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

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³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Justice on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

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Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

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Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of the Interior on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

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Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Nancy A. Berryhill
Commissioner
U.S. Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21207

Dear Commissioner Berryhill:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

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Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Social Security Administration on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
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 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
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Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

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May 16, 2019

The Honorable James F. Bridenstine
Administrator
U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, S.W.
Suite 5R30
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Administrator Bridenstine:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

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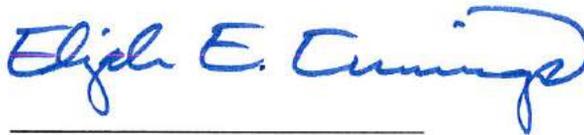
1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or

- v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and
- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin S. Carson, M.D.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Housing and Urban Development on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

The Honorable Benjamin S. Carson, M.D.

Page 3

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Transportation on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable France A. Córdova, M.D.
Director
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Director Córdova:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

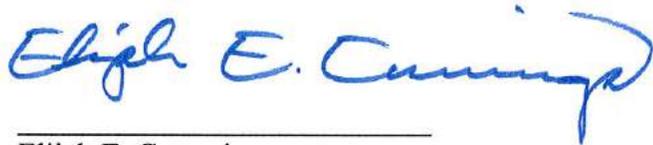
1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the National Science Foundation on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

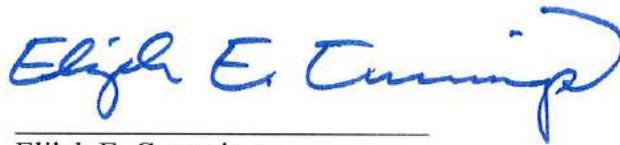
1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Education on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
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 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
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Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Mark A. Green
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building, Suite 610
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Administrator Green:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

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¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

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Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

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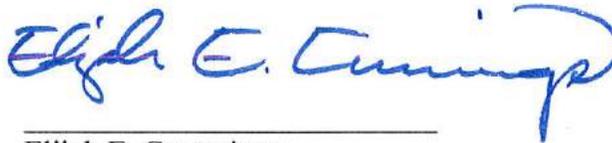
1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Agency for International Development on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
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 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
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 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
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- v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and
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Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary McAleenan:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%20.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Homeland Security on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of the Treasury on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Emily Murphy
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Administrator Murphy:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the General Services Administration on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Agriculture on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

The Honorable Sonny Perdue

Page 3

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Energy on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

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An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Chris Pilkerton
Acting Administrator and General Counsel
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Acting Administrator Pilkerton:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

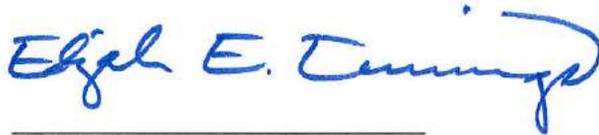
1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Small Business Administration on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of State on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Commerce on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.

Page 3

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Shanahan
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Acting Secretary Shanahan:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Defense on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Svinicki:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Margaret Weichert
Acting Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20415

Dear Acting Director Weichert:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Office of Personnel Management on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

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Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Andrew R. Wheeler
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

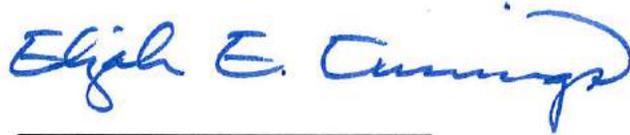
1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Environmental Protection Agency on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051

Minority (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee is investigating the Trump Administration's use and disclosure of ethics waivers as part of an effort to reform and improve existing ethics laws. As part of this investigation, the Committee requests copies of documents on the implementation of ethics rules by the Trump Administration, including copies of any waivers issued by the White House that permit political appointees to participate in official action despite potential conflicts of interest.

On April 28, 2017, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued a directive that required all agencies to provide information and documents related to certain ethics waivers and authorizations issued to Executive Branch appointees from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The OGE directive sought information related to the White House process for issuing waivers of the ethics pledge required by Executive Order 13770.¹

OGE reviewed this information to evaluate procedures for issuing waivers and authorizations. OGE found "that agencies largely complied with statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements when issuing the waivers and authorizations produced" for the data call.² There has, however, been a large amount of turnover within the Trump Administration.³

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *PA-17-02, Data Call for Certain Waivers and Authorizations* (Apr. 28, 2017) (online at [www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/\\$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open](http://www.oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/Program%20Management%20Advisories/5B5DECAECCE6CB8185258110007ADC76/$FILE/PA-17-02.pdf?open)); see Exec. Order No. 13770, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees*, 82 Fed. Reg. 9333 (Jan. 28, 2017) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02450.pdf).

² U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Special Review of Executive Branch Agency Waivers & Authorizations* (Sep. 2017) (online at [https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/\\$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf](https://oge.gov/web/OGEnsf/0/F916A3C42996EF618525819A006D12EB/$FILE/Final%20Report%20Package%200.pdf)).

³ See, e.g., *Tracking Turnover in the Trump Administration*, Brookings Institution (Apr. 2019) (online at www.brookings.edu/research/tracking-turnover-in-the-trump-administration) (noting that not less than 15 members of President Trump's Cabinet have departed the administration since the beginning of his term, all of which occurred after the time frame of the OGE data call).

Accordingly, the Committee seeks updated information related to ethics waivers and authorizations.

To assist in the Committee's review, please produce the following information and documents by May 30, 2019:

1. For each person who meets the definition of "appointee" under Executive Order 13770 who served in the Department of Veterans Affairs on or after January 20, 2017:
 - a. signed and dated copies of the pledge (or documents evidencing the signing of the pledge) required by Executive Order 13770; or, in the alternative, a certification that the appointee has not signed the pledge required by Executive Order 13770 and any explanation of why the appointee has not signed the pledge;
 - b. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or obtained under Executive Order 13770;
 - c. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1);
 - d. signed and dated copies of any authorization issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d);
 - e. signed and dated copies of any waiver issued or approved under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c);
 - f. copies of any documents evidencing an oral or written promise by an appointee to undertake specific action in order to alleviate an actual or apparent conflict of interest, including:
 - i. recusal;
 - ii. divestiture of a financial interest;
 - iii. resignation from a position with a non-Federal business or other entity;
 - iv. procurement of a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(3); or
 - v. establishment of a qualified blind or diversified trust under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and Subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2635; and

- g. copies of any waiver or recusal related to or issued pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

Responding to Oversight Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. Produce all documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
2. Requested documents, and all documents reasonably related to the requested documents, should not be destroyed, altered, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
3. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request is or has been known by any name other than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
4. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, thumb drive, or secure file transfer) in lieu of paper productions.
5. Documents produced in electronic format should be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
6. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - a. The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - b. Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - c. If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
 - d. All electronic documents produced to the Committee should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document, and no modifications should be made to the original metadata:

BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE, SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM, CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE, DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD,

INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION,
BEGATTACH.

7. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, zip file, box, or folder is produced, each should contain an index describing its contents.
8. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.
9. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph(s) or request(s) in the Committee's letter to which the documents respond.
10. The fact that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
11. The pendency of or potential for litigation shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
12. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(d), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and any statutory exemptions to FOIA shall not be a basis for withholding any information.
13. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(9), the Privacy Act shall not be a basis for withholding information.
14. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
15. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) every privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author, addressee, and any other recipient(s); (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other; and (f) the basis for the privilege(s) asserted.
16. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (by date, author, subject, and recipients), and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
17. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, produce all documents that would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

18. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
19. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
20. Two sets of each production shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2105 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
21. Upon completion of the production, submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term “document” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, data, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, communications, electronic mail (email), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other inter-office or intra-office communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, mail, releases, electronic

message including email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, message application, or otherwise.

3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information that might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neutral genders.
4. The term “including” shall be construed broadly to mean “including, but not limited to.”
5. The term “Company” means the named legal entity as well as any units, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities over which the named legal entity exercises control or in which the named entity has any ownership whatsoever.
6. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; (b) the individual’s business or personal address and phone number; and (c) any and all known aliases.
7. The term “related to” or “referring or relating to,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
8. The term “employee” means any past or present agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, detailee, fellow, independent contractor, intern, joint adventurer, loaned employee, officer, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, special government employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.
9. The term “individual” means all natural persons and all persons or entities acting on their behalf.