

Statement from Chairman Elijah E. Cummings

Amendment on OGE Investigative Authority

March 26, 2019

I oppose this amendment.

This amendment would gut one of the fundamental changes the underlying bill would make, which is to strengthen the authority of the Office of Government Ethics.

Under the Trump Administration, we have seen one ethics scandal after another.

Former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt rented a condo from a lobbyist and used his staff to find jobs for his wife and daughter.

Former Secretary of Health and Human Services
Tom Price flew on private planes at taxpayer
expense.

Current Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross
refused to divest one of his holdings that he
committed to divest in his ethics agreement, and then
falsely reported that he had, in fact, divested the
holding.

OGE needs the authority to investigate in order
to clean up the mess that has been created under this
Administration.

We must learn from what has happened during
the last two years and act to improve OGE's

authority, rather than leaving it without the tools it needs to perform its mission.

I oppose this amendment and urge every Member who supports cleaning up unethical behavior in the executive branch to oppose it.