

Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Justice

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

October 17, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On September 26, 2017, we wrote to you requesting information and documents regarding government-owned aircraft for personal travel or private non-commercial aircraft for official travel. We requested you provide these documents and information to the Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2017. That time has passed and we have not received sufficient communication from your department.

Please provide the requested documents and information forthwith. A copy of the September 26 letter with the requested documents and information is attached for your convenience. In addition, please provide the requested documents and information from the September 26 letter that fall within the timeframe of January 1, 2016, to January 19, 2017. This additional request is necessary to assess the frequency and nature of this issue to help determine whether new policies or regulations need to be enacted or perhaps to even change the nature of appropriations to your department.

If you are unable to provide the originally requested documents and information by October 24, 2017, we ask your staff to schedule an in-person meeting to discuss the status of the matter with Committee staff. If you have not complied with the request or satisfactorily provided a good faith commitment for complying in full on or before October 31, 2017, the Chairman intends to issue a subpoena for the materials.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Trey Gowdy

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings

Enclosure

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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September 26, 2017

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 examining the extent to which non-career officials at federal departments and agencies either use government-owned aircraft for personal travel or private non-commercial aircraft for official travel. Under 5 U.S.C. § 5733, official travel on the part of federal employees must be “by the most expeditious means of transportation practicable” and “commensurate with the nature and purpose of the [employee’s] duties,” and by no means should include personal use.¹

To ensure compliance with the U.S. Code and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, please provide the following documents and information to the Committee:

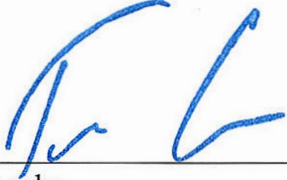
1. Identify each usage of a government-owned aircraft by a non-career official at your department or agency since January 20, 2017. For each usage please provide the aircraft manifest (including all passenger names), destinations, dates of use, purpose and cost of each trip.
2. Produce policies relating to the use of government-owned aircraft or private non-commercial aircraft by non-career officials.
3. Identify each usage of a private, non-commercial aircraft by a non-career official at your department or agency, including but not limited to charter service, lease, or other arrangement through Commercial Aviation Services providers since January 20, 2017. Provide the aircraft manifest (including all passenger names), destinations, dates of use, purpose, cost of each trip, and the source of payment for the trip.

¹ Pub. L. 90-206, title II, Section 22(c)(1), Dec. 16, 1967, 81 Stat. 461.

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
September 26, 2017
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Provide the requested documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2017. An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to the Committee's request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact Patrick Hartobey of the Majority staff at (202) 225-5074 and Todd Phillips of the Minority staff at (202) 225-5051 with any questions about this request.



Trey Gowdy

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings

Enclosures