

AIMS Agency Information Management System

My Dashboard

New Interaction Ne

New Outreach

Search

Trends

Agencies

Administration

Resolved Interaction

	Interaction Number: 15399
	copy press contact to new
Initiation Date*:	2018-06-11
Title*:	Question about ethics complaint (Huffington Post)
Question*:	Hello,
	I'm wri ing about a new complaint to OGE filed by the American Democracy Legal Fund, reques ing the agency investigate EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's use of his office to obtain a Chick-fil-A franchise and a short-term job with the nonprofit Concordia for his wife.
	Does the OGE plan to fulfill the request?
Update:	
Categories*:	Misuse of Position
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Non-Agency Press
First Name:	Alexander C.
Last Name:	Kaufman
Title:	Reporter, Huffington Post
Position:	
Email:	(b) (6)
Phone:	(b) (6)
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Elizabeth D. Horton
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	Elizabeth D. Horton

	Resolution Information		
Resolution Date*:	2018-06-11		
Resolution Category*:	Resolved		
Response*:	I informed he reporter on background that OGE was not aware of such a complaint. (Assigned to: Elizabeth D. Horton)		
Complexity (level):	1 [Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]		
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour		
Contributor:			
reopen			

7/16/2019

Agency Information Management System (AIMS) | US OGE

Closed	06/11/2018 03:16:17 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Now Assigned: Elizabeth D. Horton	06/11/2018 03:16:17 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton

Division(s) assigned: IOD



AIMS Agency Information Management System

My Dashboard

New Outreach

Search

Trends

Agencies

Administration

Resolved Interaction

Here is CLC's letter linked below. http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/files/Complaint%20to%20EPA%20IG%20-%20CLC%20-%20June%2019%202018. CLC says it also sent this letter to the Office of Government Ethics. I have a few ques ions about this, which are: — Has OGE received this letter? — Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Pruitt using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-fil- franchise?		Interaction Number: 15489 copy press contact to
Title* Question about complaint (E&E News) Question*: Elizabeth, Hi, It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I'm working on a story about the Campaign Legal Center filing a complaint with the EPA Inspector General about Administrator Prutit Here is CLC's letter linked below. http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/files/Complaint%2010%20EPA%20IG%20-%20CLC%20-%20June%2019%202018 CLC says it also sent this letter to the Office of Government Ethics. I have a few quesions about this, which are: — Has OGE received this letter? — Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Prutit using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-filit franchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Update: Imail Categories*: Ehics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction*: Email Res Res First Name: Kevin Last Name: Bogardus Possition: Res Context const and additionabut additionability addity addity additionability addity additionability addit	1201 Mar 100 101 - 112 - 104 - 104	
Question*: Elizabeth, Hi, if's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. If'' working on a story about the Campaign Legal Center filing a complaint with the EPA inspector General about Administrator Prult Here is CLC's letter inked below. http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/files/Complaint%20to%20EPA%20IG%20-%20CLC%20-%20Lune%2019%202018. CLC's asys it also sent this letter to the Office of Government Ethics. I have a few ques ions about this, which are: — Has OGE received this letter? — Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Prutt using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-file franchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Update: Categories*: Ethics Program Administration Mon-Agency Press Press First Name: Kevin Last Name: Apporter, E&E News Position: Email: Other Contact Nets: Elizabeth D, Horton Watching: Elizabeth D, Horton	Initiation Date*:	2018-06-19
Hi, It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I'm working on a story about the Campaign Legal Center filing a complaint with the EPA Inspector General about Administrator Prult Here is CLC's letter linked below. http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/files/Complaint%2010%20EPA%2016%20PA%2016%20PA%2016%20PA%2016%20P	Title*:	Question about complaint (E&E News)
Prease get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it height reporting. Thank you for your heigh. Prease get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it height reporting. Thank you for your heigh. Origin Of Interaction: First Name: Prease Position: Exercise Reporter E&E News Origin Of Interaction: Enablish Exercise Reporter E&E News Exercise Reporter Exercise News Exercise Reporter Exercise News Exercise Network Exercise Network <t< td=""><td>Question*:</td><td>Elizabeth,</td></t<>	Question*:	Elizabeth,
Here is CLC's letter linked below. http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/liles/Complaint%2010%20EPA%201G%20-%20CLC%20-%20June%2019%202018 CLC says it also sent this letter to the Office of Government Ethics. I have a few ques ions about this, which are: Has OGE received this letter? Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Pruitt using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-filt franchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Update: Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction* Email Non-Agency Press Position Exploring. Thank Position Exploring. Table Other Contact Notes: Please pet back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Update: Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction* Email Reporter, E&E News Email Reporter, E&E News Email Prostion Enclose Prove Email Other Contact Notes: Elizabeth D. Horton		Hi, it's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.
CLC says it also sent this letter to the Office of Government Ethics. I have a few quesions about this, which are: Has OGE received this letter? Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Prutit using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-fil- tranchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Update:		I'm working on a story about the Campaign Legal Center filing a complaint with the EPA Inspector General about Administrator Pruitt. Here is CLC's letter linked below.
Answer a few ques ions about this, which are: - Has OGE received this letter? - Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Pruitit using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-fil- tranchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Origin Of Interaction* Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction* Email Source* Non-Agency Press First Name Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Reporter, E&E News Position* Interaction* Other Contact Notes Interaction* Assignment Elizabeth D. Horton		http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/files/Complaint%20to%20EPA%20IG%20-%20CLC%20-%20June%2019%202018.pdf
- Has OGE received this letter? - Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Pruitt using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-file franchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Update: Categories* Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction* Press Press Kevin Last Name Bogardus Position Prostion Chemeer Interaction* Chemeer Interaction* Bogardus Contact Notes: Anon-Agency Press Press Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Chemeer Instance Bogardus Contact Notes: Ansignment Elizabeth D. Horton		CLC says it also sent this letter to the Office of Government Ethics.
- Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Pruitt using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-fil- tranchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps reporting. Thank you for your help. Update: Categories*: Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction*: Email Source*: Non-Agency Press Press Kevin Last Name Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Image: Source*: Phose: Image: Source*: Phose: Source*: Bogardus Image: Source*: Categories: Ethics Program Administration Categories: Non-Agency Press Press Reporter, E&E News Categories: Bogardus Categories: Reporter, E&E News Categories: Image: Source*: Phone: Image: Source*: Other Contact Notes: Image: Source*: Assignment: Elizabeth D. Horton		I have a few ques ions about this, which are:
franchise? Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps Update: Categories*: Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction*: Email Source*: Non-Agency Press Press Categories*: Kevin Last Name: Kevin Reporter, E&E News Reporter, E&E News Officion of Interaction*: Source*: Mol Aggency Press Press Reporter, E&E News Contact Name: Source*: Mol Int Sognadus multisoter Source Contact Notes: Source Other Contact Notes: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching: Lizabeth D. Horton		— Has OGE received this letter?
reporting. Thank you for your help. Pupdate: Categories*: Ethics Program Administration Categories*: Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction*: Email Non-Agency Press Non-Agency Press Kevin Kevin Bogardus Kevin Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Non-Agency Non-Agency Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Non-Agency Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Non-Agency Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Etizabeth D. Horton Kategories Ketin Ketin Ketin Ketin Ketin Ketin Ketin Ketin Ke		- Does OGE plan to investigate the allegations against Administrator Pruitt using EPA resources to try to secure his wife a Chick-fil-A franchise?
Categories*: Ethics Program Administration Origin Of Interaction*: Email Source*: Non-Agency Press First Name: Kevin Last Name: Bogardus Title: Reporter, E&E News Position: Image: Contract Notes: Other Contact Notes: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching: Lizabeth D. Horton		Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps i reporting. Thank you for your help.
Origin Of Interaction*: Email Origin Of Interaction*: Email Source*: Non-Agency Press Press Kevin Last Name: Bogardus Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Position: Image: Contract Notes: Other Contact Notes: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching: Image: Contact Notes:	Update:	
Source': Non-Agency Press First Name: Kevin Last Name: Bogardus Bogardus Reporter, E&E News Control Title: Reporter, E&E News Position: Image: Source #state State Stat	Categories*:	Ethics Program Administration
Press Press First Name: Kevin Last Name: Bogardus Title: Reporter, E&E News Position:	Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Last Name: Bogardus Title: Reporter, E&E News Position:	Source*:	
Title: Reporter, E&E News Position: Email: 0/0/ IC Bogardus enail address Phone: K Bogardus phone #s Other Contact Notes: Assignment: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching:	First Name:	Kevin
Position: Image: Contract Notes: Other Contact Notes: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching: Elizabeth D. Horton	Last Name:	Bogardus
Position: Image: Contract Notes: Other Contact Notes: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching: Elizabeth D. Horton	Title:	Reporter, E&E News
Phone: K Begardus phone ds Other Contact Notes: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching: Elizabeth D. Horton	Position:	
Phone: K Begardus phone #s Other Contact Notes: Image: Contact Notes: Assignment: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching: Image: Contact Notes:	Email:	(b)(8) K. Bogardus email address
Other Contact Notes: Assignment: Bizabeth D. Horton		K. Bogardus phone #s
Assignment: Elizabeth D. Horton Watching:		
Watching:		Elizabeth D. Horton
remporary notes.		
created by: Elizabeth D. Horton		

Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	I told the reporter on background that we were not aware of the letter and referred him to OGE's 6/15 letter to the EPA's OIG. (Assigned to: Elizabeth D. Horton)
Complexity (level):	1
ing thomas thomas	[Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	
reopen	

Interaction History Log		
Closed	06/19/2018 01:27:36 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton	
Now Assigned: Elizabeth D. Horton	06/19/2018 01:27:36 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton	

Division(s) assigned: IOD



AIMS Agency Information Management System

My Dashboard

New Outreach

Search

Trends

Agencies

Administration

Resolved Interaction

	Interaction Number: 17604 copy press contact to n
Initiation Date:	2040.05.07
Initiation Date*:	2019-06-07
Title*: Question*:	PA IG coordinated with OGE on Pruitt Chick-fil-A investigation Hi, it's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.
25	I'm working on a story about this letter from the EPA Inspector General to Sen. Udall (https://www.tomudall.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Final%20Response%20to%20RM%20Tom%20Udall.pdf), which was shared in a press release yesterday (please see below). I had a few questions about this, which are: • The letter says EPA IG "coordinated" with the Office of Government Ethics on the EPA IG investigation of former EPA Administrator Scot Pruitt using his official position and his staff to seek business opportunities with Chick-fil-A and Concordia. What did that coordination entain Interviews held jointly by EPA IG and OGE? Advice and guidance from OGE? Please be specific as possible. Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is noon EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help. Kevin Bogardus E&E News Reporter NOVE Bogardus E&E News Reporter NOVE Bogardus E&E News Reporter
Update:	
Categories*:	Misuse of Position
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Non-Agency Press
First Name:	Kevin
Last Name:	Bogardus
Title:	Reporter, E&E News
Position:	
Email:	(b)(6) K.
Phone:	(b)(6) K. Bogardus phone numbers
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Patrick Shepherd
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	Patrick Shepherd

	Resolution Information	
Resolution Date*:	2019-06-07	
Resolution Category*:	Resolved	
Response*:	Shared with reporter hat OGE does not comment on individual cases. (Assigned to: Patrick Shepherd)	
Complexity (level):	1	
NR (2002)6 (80)4	[Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]	

7/16/2019

Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	
reopen	

Interaction History Log		
Closed	06/07/2019 10:45:21 AM by Patrick Shepherd	
Now Assigned: Patrick Shepherd	06/07/2019 10:45:21 AM by Patrick Shepherd	

Division(s) assigned: PCD

June 15, 2018

Arthur A. Elkins, Jr. Inspector General U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2410T) Washington, DC 20460

Dear Inspector General Elkins:

As the supervising ethics office for the Executive branch, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) leads an ethics program designed to prevent conflicts of interest on the part of Executive branch employees. In an April 6, 2018, letter to Kevin Minoli, Principal Deputy General Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I raised concerns about the various reported actions of Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the EPA as they may have constituted violations of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch (Standards of Conduct) and Executive Order 13770.¹ I now write to you to request that your office investigate new allegations in addition to those identified in my April 6 letter.²

A variety of sources raise concerns about the Administrator's use of his position. Specifically, recent reports raise additional questions regarding the Administrator's use of subordinates' time to search for housing and furniture for the Administrator.³ Recent news reports further allege that the Administrator used his security detail to complete other personal errands for him on official time.⁴ Additionally, recent articles suggest that Administrator used a staff member and his official position to seek business opportunities for his wife with

1201 NEW YORK AVE NW · SUITE 500 · WASHINGTON DC · 20005

¹ Letter from David J. Apol, Acting Dir. and Gen. Counsel, U.S. Office of Gov't Ethics, to Kevin Minoli, Principal Deputy Gen. Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official, U.S. Envtl. Prot. Agency (Apr. 6, 2018), https://t.co/s4yN7EcbO9.

² See 5 U.S.C. app. § 402(f)(2); 5 C.F.R. § 2638.501.

³ Lisa Friedman & Eric Lipton, *Aide Sought a New Apartment for Scott Pruitt, and an 'Old Mattress' from Trump Hotel*, N.Y. TIMES (June 4, 2018), <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/04/climate/pruitt-epa-apartment-aide.html</u>; Erica Orden, *EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Asked Employee to Run Personal Errands*, WALL ST. J. (June 4, 2018), <u>https://www.wsj.com/articles/epa-chief-scott-pruitt-asked-employee-to-run-personal-errands-1528138826</u>.

⁴ Juliet Eilperin et al., *Pruitt Enlisted Security Detail in Picking Up Dry Cleaning, Moisturizing Lotion*, WASH. POST (June 7, 2018), <u>https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/06/07/pruitt-enlisted-security-detail-in-picking-up-dry-cleaning-moisturizing-lotion/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fd9997e1e1df.</u>

Chick-fil-A,⁵ among others.⁶ These reports raise concerns about whether the Administrator misused his position.⁷

Based on correspondence from Mr. Minoli,⁸ your letter to Congress,⁹ and OGE's communications with your office in which we have provided technical assistance at your request on several issues related to that investigation, I know that you are already looking into the alleged conduct I raised in my April 6 letter. OGE now requests that you also investigate and analyze the newly alleged conduct described above. Further, it is our understanding that you plan to issue a report concerning the previous (and possibly new) allegations. We ask you to complete your report, as soon as possible, so that we can decide whether to begin a formal corrective action proceeding in order to make a formal recommendation to the President.¹⁰

As noted to Mr. Minoli, the American public needs to have confidence that ethics violations, as well as the appearance of ethics violations, are investigated and properly addressed. The efficacy of, and public trust in, our Government demands it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

David J. Apol Acting Director and General Counsel

cc: Kevin Minoli, Principal Deputy General Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

⁵ Alexander C. Kaufman, Scott Pruitt Faces Mounting Calls for Investigations into Chick-fil-A Scandal, HUFFINGTON POST (June 11, 2018), <u>https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/scott-pruitt-chick-fil-a-investigations-oge_us_5blebd43e4b09d7a3d75b3cf</u>; Ellen Knickmeyer & Michael Biesecker, EPA Director Pruitt Laughs off Chick-fil-A Controversy as Senior Aide Quits, TIME (June 6, 2018), <u>http://time.com/5303918/epa-scott-pruitt-chick-fil-a-aide-quits/</u>; Lisa Friedman, Scott Pruitt Sought 'Business Opportunity' With Chick-fil-A While Leading E.P.A., N.Y. TIMES (June 5, 2018), <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/05/climate/pruitt-epa-chick-fil-a.html</u>.

⁶ Juliet Eilperin et al., *EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Tapped Aid, Donors to Help Wife Land Job at Conservative Group*, WASH. POST (June 13, 2018), <u>https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/epa-chief-scott-pruitt-tapped-aide-donors-to-help-wife-land-job-at-conservative-group/2018/06/13/f54c87fa-6db1-11e8-afd5-778aca903bbe_story.html?utm_term=.eff67c03c8bf.</u>

⁷ 5 C.F.R. §§ 2635.702, .705(b).

 ⁸ Letter from Kevin Minoli, Principal Deputy Gen. Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official, U.S. Envtl. Prot. Agency, to David J. Apol, Acting Dir. and Gen. Counsel, U.S. Office of Gov't Ethics (Apr. 9, 2018).
 ⁹ Letter from Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., Inspector Gen., U.S. Envtl. Prot. Agency, to Hon. Don Beyer, U.S. House of

Representatives (Apr. 25, 2018).

¹⁰ 5 C.F.R. § 2638.504.