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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, *MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR*  
GABRIELLE BATKIN, *MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR*

September 29, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

We write to request that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Committee) hold a hearing to review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget proposal for fiscal year (FY) 2018, and that Administrator Scott Pruitt be asked to testify at this hearing.

We are concerned that this necessary hearing is long overdue. Nearly ten months into the 115th Congress, more than seven months after EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt was sworn in, and only days before the start of the next fiscal year, the Committee has yet to hold a hearing to examine EPA's budget, which is an important Committee oversight responsibility.

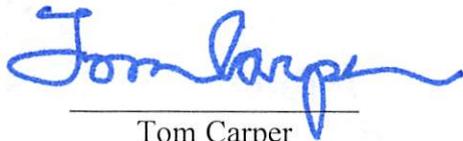
This Committee has a long history of reviewing EPA's annual budget requests, without regard to which political party has been in the majority or occupied the White House. Since 1999, only once has this Committee not held a hearing on the agency's budget request. In fact, in 2013, you and other Republican Members of the Committee wrote to then-Chairman Barbara Boxer requesting that she bring then-Administrator Gina McCarthy before the Committee to discuss the EPA's FY 2014 budget request. In a letter dated September 23, 2013 (attached), Republican Members noted that Administrator McCarthy had been in place for over two months but had still not appeared before the Committee, calling the situation "inexcusable" and an "abdication of oversight responsibility" by the Committee.

In comparison, Scott Pruitt was sworn in as EPA Administrator on February 17, 2017, and EPA's FY 2018 budget proposal was submitted to Congress on May 23, 2017. Administrator Pruitt's current tenure at EPA has already been three times longer than Ms. McCarthy's when Republican Members made that request. More troublingly, he has testified on the EPA's FY 2018 budget before two other Congressional committees, but has yet to appear before this one.

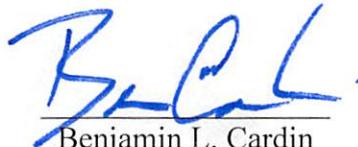
During his confirmation hearing, Administrator Pruitt agreed to appear before this Committee and provide information. Providing detail about the implications of an EPA budget proposal on the agency's mission, programs and responsibilities is one of the basic duties of the EPA Administrator, and reviewing that proposal is one of our important responsibilities.

We respectfully request that you find time on the Committee's calendar in the very near future for Administrator Pruitt to testify about EPA's budget proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Tom Carper  
Ranking Member



Benjamin L. Cardin  
U.S. Senator



Bernard Sanders  
U.S. Senator



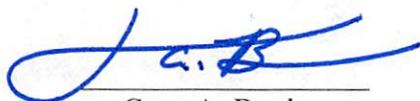
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