

Nonresponsive record

From: Hand, Bob

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 5:45:07 PM

To: ContactOGE@oge.gov

Cc: vincent.salamone@oge.gov; Seth.jaffe@oge.gov

Subject: Walter Shaub Interview Monday night with Erin Burnett

Vincent and Seth

Good Afternoon! I was wondering if Walter Shaub would be available on Monday night with Erin Burnett to discuss the letter he put out today on Trump's Transition Picks and not being properly vetted

We would love to get him on with Erin on Monday night at 7 PMET

Thank you,

Bob Hand

Bob Hand

ERIN BURNETT OUTFRONT

CNN Sr. Editorial Producer

(b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

Alt. Cell: (b) (6)

Office: (b) (6)

From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [Beard, Susan](#); [Jim Robertson](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of James Richard Perry
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 2:55:04 PM
Attachments: [Perry, James Richard finalEA.pdf](#)
[Perry, James Richard final278.pdf](#)
[Perry, James Richard finalsenateltr.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for James Richard Perry. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate Mr. Perry for the position of Secretary, Department of Energy.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson

Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

202-482-9283

Nonresponsive record

From: Teresa L. Williamson
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 8:04 PM
To: (b)(6) - Josh Levasseur Email Address
Cc: Deborah J. Bortot; Sandra S. Mabry; Rodrick T. Johnson; Heather A. Jones;
(b)(6) - Donaldson's email address
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Thomas E. Price

Good Evening,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Thomas E. Price. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate Dr. Price for the position of Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

The hard copy of the attached documents will be placed at OGE reception for pick up by a Senate rider page per our agreement. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Williamson @ 202-482-9283.

Please respond to this message to confirm receipt of the attached package, and please let me know in your response whether you will send a Senate rider page.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson
Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202-482-9283

From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: (b)(6) - Randall Hall email address (b)(6) - Stanley Olesh email address [Patrick J. Lightfoot](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Thomas E. Price
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 8:11:44 AM
Attachments: [Price, Thomas E. finalsenateltr.pdf](#)
[Price, Thomas E. final278.pdf](#)
[Price, Thomas E. finalEA.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Thomas E. Price. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate Dr. Price for the position of Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson
Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202-482-9283

From: [Sutton, Yasaman P. EOP/OMB](#)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Cc: [Deborah J. Bortol](#); [Heather A. Jones](#); [Jim Robertson](#); [Sutton, Yasaman P. EOP/OMB](#)
Subject: Representative Mulvaney -- Nominee for OMB Director -- Ethics Agreement & Transmittal Note
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 2:28:49 PM
Attachments: [Mulvaney -- Signed Ethics Agreement -- January 13, 2017.pdf](#)

Dear Walt,

I have reviewed and certified in Integrity the Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), dated January 14, 2017, submitted by Representative John Michael Mulvaney, in connection with President-Elect Trump's intent to nominate him to serve as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Attached please find the Ethics Agreement, dated January 13, 2017, from Representative Mulvaney specifying certain actions that he will take in connection with ethics matters, if confirmed as Director.

Based on my review of Representative Mulvaney's OGE Form 278e and the attached Ethics Agreement, it is my opinion, in consultation with OGE, that the report is complete and discloses no conflicts of interest under applicable laws and regulations.

I will transmit a signed version of this letterhead to you on Tuesday.

Please do not hesitate to reach me with any questions or concerns, (b) (6)

Thank you to you and your team for your assistance, as always.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Yasi

Yasaman Sutton
Assistant General Counsel
Office of Management and Budget

(b) (6) desk
(b) (6) work cell

From: [Seth Jaffe](#)
To: [Vincent Salamone](#)
Subject: FW: Trump Nominees
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 1:39:27 PM

FYI:

From: (b)(6) - Gina Chon's email address

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 1:38 PM

To: Seth Jaffe; Vincent Salamone

Subject: RE: Trump Nominees

Hi,

I have been accessing financial disclosures through the OGE web site for weeks. But today, I was taken to the Extranet Application Server and asked for a username and password. Has the process for viewing the reports changed? I was checking to see if Wilbur Ross's disclosure is up yet. Thanks so much.

Regards,

Gina

Gina Chon

Washington Columnist, Reuters Breakingviews

Thomson Reuters

Phone: +(b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Twitter: [@GinaChon](#)

Nonresponsive record

From: Farhi, Arden [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 1:50 PM
To: vince.salamone@oge.gov
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: CBS News inquiry

Hi Vince –

Arden Farhi here from CBS News. I work with White House correspondent Major Garrett.
Two questions for you:

1. What paperwork are President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet-level designees required to submit to your office?
2. Which of his designees have completed the paperwork? Which designees have paperwork outstanding?

Thank you.

Please feel free to call if these questions are answered more easily over the phone.

Arden

Arden Farhi

White House producer

CBS News

(b) (6)

(p) (b)

From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [Leigh J. Francis; "Martin, Janice N"](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Rex W. Tillerson
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2017 8:36:40 AM
Attachments: [Tillerson, Rex W. final278.pdf](#)
[Tillerson, Rex W. finalsenateletter.pdf](#)
[Tillerson, Rex W. final EA.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Rex W. Tillerson. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate Mr. Tillerson for the position of Secretary, Department of State.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson

Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500

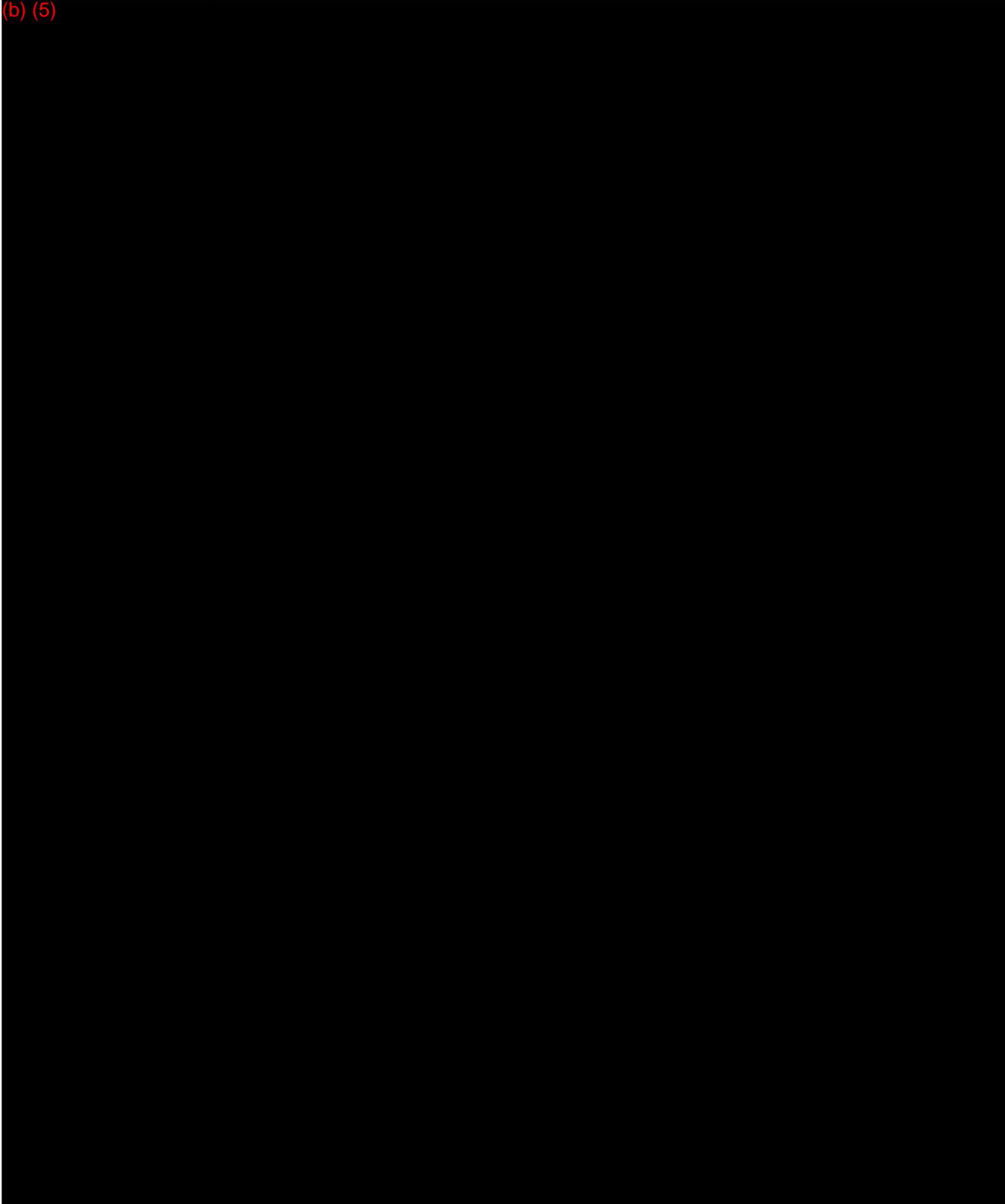
Washington, DC 20005

202-482-9283

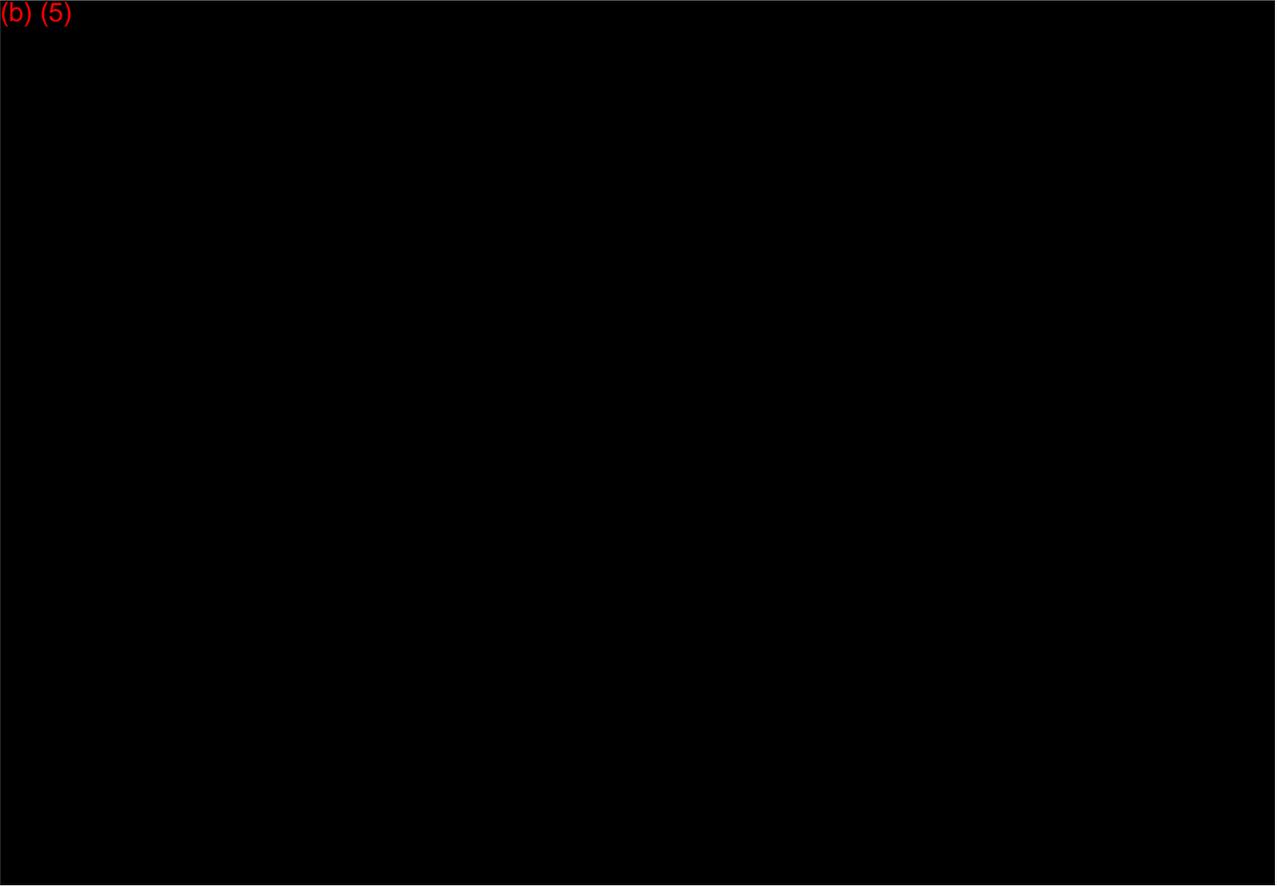
From: [Christopher J. Swartz](#)
To: [David J. Apol](#); [Deborah J. Bortot](#); [Heather A. Jones](#); [Seth Jaffe](#)
Subject: (b) (5) Question
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 7:28:27 PM

Hey All-
Hope you are enjoying inaugural day!

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



Christopher J. Swartz
Assistant Counsel, Ethics Law and Policy Branch
General Counsel & Legal Policy Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
Telephone: 202-482-9266
Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [Jim Robertson](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, January 25, 2017
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 12:58:36 PM

The Senate is not in session.

The House is not in session.

Legislative and Related News

The Huffington Post reports that the House Oversight Committee voted against an amendment to the committee's rule that would have prohibited the committee from approving any legislation that could directly benefit President Trump and his business empire. [GOP Committee Members Take First Vote To Protect Trump's Conflicts of Interest](#)

The Washington Post editorial board opines that Representative Price's trading activities while a member of the House demonstrate why congressional ethics requirements are too lax. [Tom Price is Exhibit A for congressional ethics reform](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Washington Post reports that some senators and watchdog groups believe there remain important unanswered questions about the financial interests that Education Secretary nominee Betsy DeVos will continue to hold. [Betsy DeVos's ethics review raises further questions for Democrats and watchdogs](#) However, according to *CNN*, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions rejected the ranking member's request for a second hearing with Betsy DeVos. [Democrats won't get a second hearing with Betsy DeVos, Trump's education pick](#)

The Washington Post reports that three nominees were confirmed by the Senate this week but others will have to wait for confirmation until the Senate returns next week. [Three Trump nominees confirmed, but still no deal for the others](#)

Reuters reports that the recent emoluments lawsuit filed against President Trump by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington is part of a larger strategy by the group to highlight its concerns and put political pressure on the White House. [U.S. ethics lawsuits against Trump part of groups' political strategy](#) *The Hill* reports that President Trump views the lawsuit as being "without merit." [Trump: Ethics lawsuit 'without merit'](#)

Politico reports that President Donald Trump's company has hired an outside lawyer and promoted one of its own attorneys as part of its plan to address the president's potential conflicts of interest. [Trump's company picks GOP lawyer, own attorney for ethics team](#)

CITYA.M. reports that the *Economist Intelligence Unit* has downgraded the United States in its recently released Democracy Index. Erosion of public trust in the government and elected officials moved the U.S. system of government from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy." [US labelled a "flawed" democracy over collapsing public trust](#)

The Washington Examiner reports that the Secret Service is investigating possible Hatch Act violations by one of its employees in connection with the employee's Facebook postings. [Senior Secret Service agent suggests she wouldn't take 'a bullet' for Trump](#)

International and Related News

Deutsche Welle reports that Transparency International has published its annual Corruption Perceptions Index and, in connection with that publication, has expressed fears that a global rise of populism risks undermining the fight against corruption. [Rise in populism risks worsening corruption, warns transparency watchdog](#) View the full report [here](#).

Voice of America reports that broader issues of public trust made an appearance at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. [Elites Gather in Davos; Some Worry About Plunging Public Trust](#)

[Next Scheduled Recess:](#)

House: January 26-27
Senate: [February 20-24](#)

From: [Rodrick T. Johnson](#)
To: [\(b\)\(6\) Stefan Passantino's email address](#)
Cc: [Elaine Newton](#); [Teresa L. Williamson](#); [Sandra S. Mabry](#); [Monica M. G. Ashar](#)
Subject: Certificate of Divestiture for Jared C. Kushner
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017 9:29:45 AM
Attachments: [Kusher, Jared C. CD"s 002-006.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good Morning, Mr. Passantino:

Attached is the **Certificate of Divestiture** OGE-2017-002 for Jared C. Kushner, Senior Advisor to the President, White House Office; OGE-2017-003 for Ivanka Trump as trustee for the Ivanka Trump Revocable Trust; OGE-2017-004 for Arabella Kushner, dependent minor child of Jared C. Kushner; OGE-2017-005 for Joseph Kushner, dependent minor child of Jared C. Kushner; and OGE-2017-006 for Theodore Kushner, dependent minor child of Jared C. Kushner. We would appreciate your forwarding the original certificates to Mr. Kushner. **Also enclosed is a copy of the certificate's for your files.**

The original certificate's and one copy for your records will be mailed to you. We would appreciate your forwarding the original certificate's to Mr. Kushner, upon receipt.

Please confirm receipt of this email by replying to all.

Thanks, Again

Rodrick Johnson

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, January 26, 2017
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017 11:20:05 AM

The House and Senate are not in session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

AJC.com reports on Sen. Isakson's thoughts on the President's conflicts of interest.

[What Senate ethics chief Johnny Isakson makes of Trump's conflict of interest plans](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple sources report that President Donald Trump and his hotel and real estate business on Wednesday separately named ethics counselors. [White House, Trump Organization name ethics advisers](#) [Trump's Family Business Gets Two New Ethics Overseers, Source Says](#) [Trump's company picks GOP lawyer, own attorney for ethics team](#) [Trump announces new White House ethics team](#) [Trump announces White House ethics team](#) [Trump Organization Names Two Lawyers to Handle Ethics Concerns](#) [Trump Organization names ethics overseers](#) [Trump company names ethics advisers, but critics call it an 'impossible spot'](#) [Trump And His Organization Lawyer Up For The Ethics War Ahead](#)

Multiple sources report on the President's conflicts of interest. ['It Is Unacceptable': Ethics Doubts Swirl as Trump Club Doubles Fee](#) [Can Groups Sue Over Trump's Business Conflicts Even If They Weren't Harmed?](#) [Lawsuit Claims Trump Conflicts of Interest Violates U.S. Constitution](#)

Financial Times reports on Carl Icahn's conflicts of interest and "Norman Eisen, a former legal ethics adviser for Barack Obama, said Mr Icahn's title, responsibilities and involvement in personnel choices make him a 'de facto special government employee' subject to conflicts rules preventing work on matters relating to his investments." [Trump adviser Carl Icahn gains as markets see biofuel rule change](#)

PR Watch reports on potential conflict of interest of Betsy DeVos. [Betsy DeVos Ethics Report Reveals Ties to Student Debt Collection Firm](#)

The Washington Free Beacon reports that Elizabeth Warren failed to report a home equity line of credit on her financial disclosure forms. [The Time Elizabeth Warren Used Loophole to Avoid Disclosing \\$1.3M Line of Credit](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: January 26-27; February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

Nonresponsive record

From: Paul Miller [[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:(b) (6))]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Subject: RE: Speaking Invite
Importance: High

Walter,

I am the President of the National Institute For Lobbying & Ethics, which is the professional association for lobbying professionals. I wanted to reachout to you today because we are hosting a panel discussion on January 30 on the topic of the revolving door and financial conflicts. With Donald Trump set to take office and so many unanswered questions, we wanted to continue to shed light on these issues. I've seen you quoted recently on the Trump situation and was hoping you might be willing to bring your expertise to our panel?

Program Title: The Revolving Door and Financial Conflicts: The Challenges and Risks You Face

Moderator: Thomas Susman, American Bar Association

Speakers: Robert Kelner, Covington & Burling

Marc Elias, Perkins Coie, LLP

Norm Eisen, Brookings

Robert Walker, Wiley Rein LLP

Invited: Walter Shaub, Office of Government Ethics

Date: January 30, 2017

Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Location: Ropes & Gray LLP, 2099
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
20006

Paul A. Miller, PPC

Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies

3930 Walnut Street

Suite 210

Fairfax, VA 22030

P: (b) (6)

C: (b) (6)

F: (703) 383-1332

W: www.mwcapitol.com

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From: Susman, Thomas
To: [Kelner, Robert](#); [\(B\)\(6\) - Elias Email Address](#); [Walker, Robert](#); [\(B\)\(6\) - Eisen email address](#); [David J. Apol](#)
Cc: [Amanda Kadilak](#); ["Paul Mille \(b\) \(6\)"](#); [Paul Miller](#); [Susman, Thomas](#)
Subject: RE: RE: Panel program details
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017 6:15:18 PM

Colleagues, sorry to be delayed in getting this out. You might guess that this is a busy season for a governmental affairs office.

First, I want to welcome David Apol to the panel. Many of you may already know him; he is GC at OGC and has been a government ethics officer/advisor for a distinguished career that included a stint with the Senate Ethics Committee.

Since we have allotted 2½ hours for the program – which we don't need to take if presentations and questions don't fill the time – having 5 participants is likely to be more fun and spread the responsibilities around. (As a side note, I unfortunately will have to leave shortly after 10 for a senior managers' budget meeting back at the ABA was called at the last minute by our Exec. Director; I don't have the option of missing it. Paul will take over when I depart.)

Here's a proposed line-up with a few suggestions of what you might talk about. These are merely suggestions, and as my earlier email stated, I want to keep things informal and with give-and-take, so the opening comments should be under 10 minutes.

1. Susman will do introductions of the participants and do a brief stage-setting. Two points I want to make are: (a) There is nothing inherently evil about revolving door appointments/employment; in fact they can be of substantial value to both government and the private sector. The dangers lie in the potential for conflicts of interest and undermining public perception/confidence in government. (b) There are special, perhaps enhanced, dangers with lobbyists moving in and out of government.

There are plenty of laws and regulations governing revolving in and out of government. Perhaps the best place to start is with the GC to the agency central to this issue in Washington, OGE.

2. Apol will give the overview of laws and regulations, role of agencies, and problem areas.

3. Since the first order of business these days is filling jobs in the new administration, Kelner will address what he's telling clients and friends about navigating the waters – both legally and practically – in applying for, getting vetted for, and ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations in entering the new administration.

4. Of course, for every action there's a reaction, and for every person entering government there's someone departing these days. Marc can fill us in on what kinds of cooling off periods, restrictions and prohibitions, screens, etc. need to be considered and discussed by departing officials and the law and lobbying firms they might be going to.

5. Walker has been atop both the Senate and House ethics committees, so he can best provide a rundown on the requirements and limitations affecting those going to and from Capitol Hill.

6. Finally, Eisen – sometimes considered the scourge of Washington lobbyists – will sharpen

the focus on lobbyists who go in and out of government. As author of President Obama's Executive Order affecting lobbyists and outspoken critic of some of the current administration's actions on the ethics front, he'll give us an appraisal of the effects of the Obama order and opine on the wisdom and efficacy of the 5-year cooling-off period proposed to be imposed on lobbyists entering the Trump administration.

We'll have plenty of time for questions at the end, but will also take a few questions after (and even during) each presentation.

My plan is to allow everyone to question, interrupt, comment on, and rebut or second whatever is said by others. We'll try to keep it light-hearted and fast-moving. BUT feel free to reply to all with amendments, complaints, or agreement (but no resignations, please).

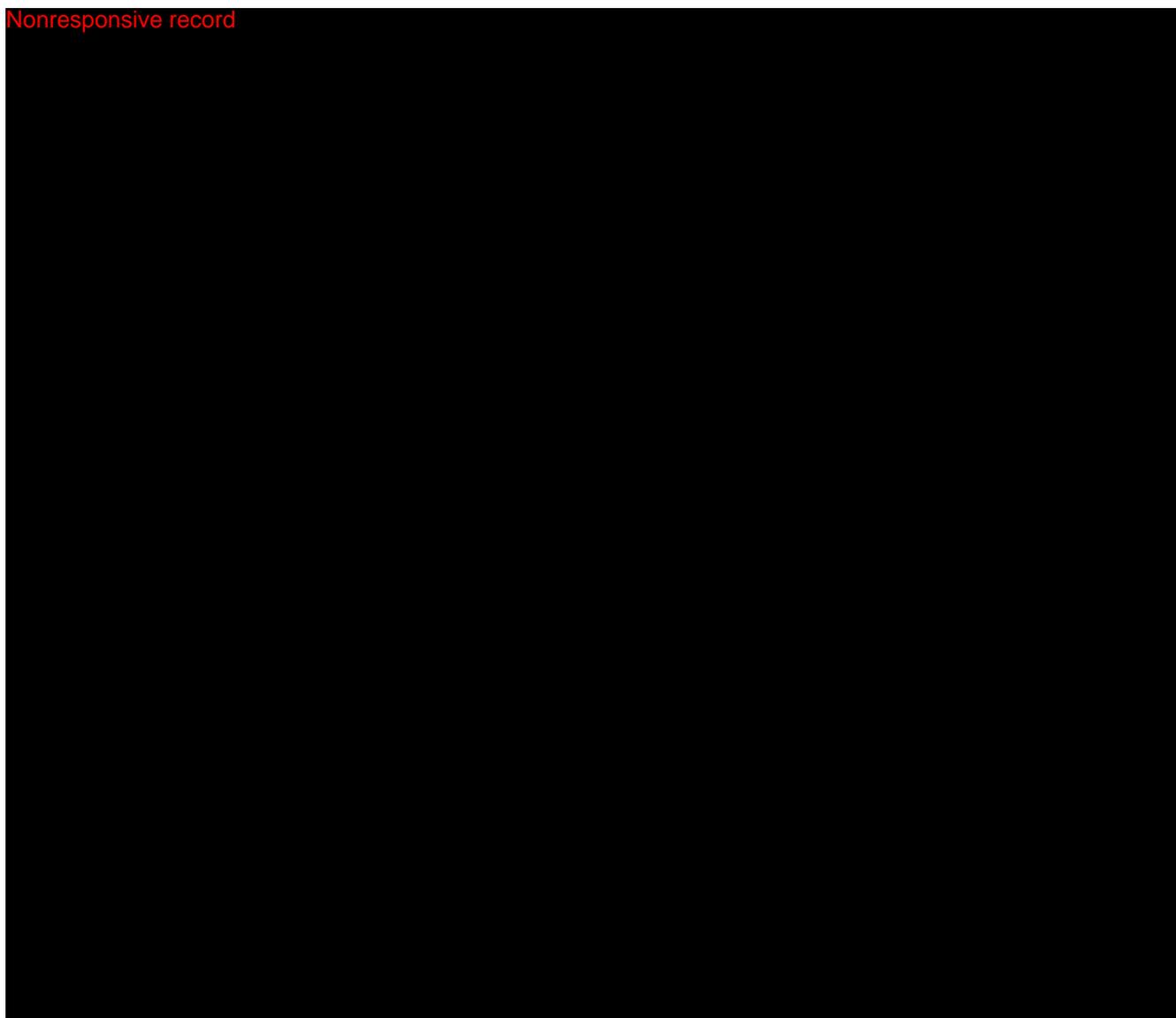
Tom

Thomas M. Susman

(o) (b) (6)

(m) (b) (6)

Nonresponsive record



Nonresponsive record

From: Paul Miller [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:21 AM
To: Susman, Thomas <(b) (6)>; Kelner, Robert
(b) (6) <(B)(6) - Elias Email Address>; Walker, Robert
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) <(B)(6) - Eisen email address>
Cc: Amanda Kadilak <(b) (6)>; Paul Miller
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: RE: Panel program details

I wanted to touch base with everyone regarding our ethics program planned for January 30th. President-Elect Trump has been in the news recently regarding questions arising from potential conflicts. This panel discussion is not focused on Trump. We want to host a panel discussion that focuses on the revolving door from the lobbyist side of the ball. Mr. Trump may come up, but we don't see this panel as solely focused on Mr. Trump's potential issues. We want to make this a learning and value add for our side and what they need to be aware of today when it comes to ethics, the revolving door and potential financial conflicts.

Does this make sense and something that fits your thoughts?

Paul A. Miller, PPC

Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies

3930 Walnut Street

Suite 210

Fairfax, VA 22030

P: (b) (6)

C: (b) (6)

F: (703) 383-1332

W: www.mwcapitol.com

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Nonresponsive record

From: Michael Hanson
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 10:58 AM
To: Christopher J. Swartz; David J. Apol
Subject: RE: Current and former President/VP page

Yea, the ordering would ordinarily be a problem but alphabetical – descending gives us

Trump,
Pence,
Obama,
Biden

Couldn't be better though we'll need a president and vp next time whose names start after "T"

☺

Nonresponsive record

From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, January 27, 2017
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017 11:38:59 AM

The Senate and the House meet in pro forma sessions.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

ValueWalk reports that some abnormal gains on the stock market resulting from “informational advantage” enjoyed by U.S. senators have vanished since an exposé by the 60 Minutes television show and the subsequent passage of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge, or STOCK Act in 2012. [Senators’ Abnormal Gains Vanish After STOCK Act](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

International Business Times reports that the two-year restriction on participating in government business affecting former employers required by the ethics pledge appears to be going unenforced -- even if it is still on the books. The article notes that the White House did not respond to International Business Times questions about whether the Trump administration is following the current executive order that compels appointees to sign the ethics pledge. [Trump White House Appears To Kill Obama's Ethics Rule: Appointees May Not Be Signing Required Ethics Pledges](#)

Federal News Radio reports that President Donald Trump’s pick to lead the Air Force has the needed experience, but some fear her business connections could be a problem, as illustrated by the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) describing her as “a textbook example of the revolving door.”

[Wilson has the chops, but business connections may crash Air Force nominee](#)

Multiple sources report that Gary Cohn is walking away from a career at Goldman Sachs to become President Trump’s top economic adviser with \$285 million. NBC-2 notes that Goldman’s willingness to give Cohn a chunk of that fortune ahead of schedule is causing unease among ethics experts, who say the huge payout will make him beholden to the Wall Street firm he worked at for 25 years. They say that Cohn should have to recuse himself from Trump administration matters linked to his former firm. [Goldman’s \\$285 Million Package for Gary Cohn Is Questioned \(The New York Times\)](#); [Trump adviser Gary Cohn's \\$285 million Goldman Sachs exit raises eyebrows \(NBC-2\)](#); [Ethics Of Gary Cohn Goldman Sachs Exit Deal Questioned \(Jewish Business News\)](#); [Dems rip Trump adviser’s Goldman Sachs payout \(The Hill\)](#)

The Washington Post and *The Huffington Post* report that the confirmation hearing for President Trump’s Labor secretary nominee Andrew Puzder was delayed again to allow more time for the candidate to submit his paperwork. The Washington Post article states that a Senate aide confirmed that Puzder has filed his ethics paperwork with the Office of Government Ethics, but the report, which would outline how the nominee plans to avoid conflicts of interest if confirmed, is still being reviewed and has not been submitted to the Senate. [Labor secretary nominee’s confirmation hearing delayed again \(The Washington Post\)](#); [Trump’s Labor Nominee Still Hasn’t Turned In His Ethics Paperwork \(The Huffington Post\)](#) Relatedly, *Yahoo! Finance* reports that workers from CKE Restaurants filed 33 complaints against franchises of the company, which is run by Donald Trump’s nominee to head the Department of Labor. [33 labor complaints just dropped in front of Trump's labor secretary pick](#)

OB Rag reports that the American Civil Liberties Union has taken legal action seeking documents on conflicts of interest and violations of the Constitution and federal law posed by President Trump’s and his family’s business interests by filing a Freedom of Information Act request with several government agencies, including the Office of Government Ethics. [ACLU Announces First Legal Action On Trump Conflicts Of Interest](#)

VOA News reports that the anti-corruption group Transparency International says it is concerned that allegations of conflicts of interest and nepotism in the Trump administration may hurt international perceptions about America’s ability to continue serving as a champion of anti-corruption efforts around the world. [Watchdog Says US Transparency Rating May Be Endangered](#)

WTOP reports that a husband and wife have been indicted by a federal grand jury on conspiracy and bribery charges related to contracting at the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The article notes that the couple was also charged with making false statements on their government ethics forms. [Bel Air couple accused of taking bribes for Army contracts](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that Stefan Passantino is set to be in charge of President Donald Trump's team of ethics lawyers and will be charged with trying to smooth over Trump's conflicts of interests. [Meet the Atlanta attorney who will head Donald Trump's ethics office](#)
Multiple sources report on the President's conflicts of interest. [Trump's foreign profits plan is doable, but experts say it's an ethical minefield](#); [Trump's Mar-a-Lago is getting more exclusive](#); [Trump's Immigration Ban Excludes Countries With Business Ties](#); [Should Chaffetz investigate Trump over pipeline?](#); [Report: Trump names new head of agency in charge of DC hotel](#)

The Huffington Post refers to the revolving door in reporting that Julie Lindsay, a top lawyer at Citigroup, was working for the president-elect before the inauguration to fill key posts at agencies that are supposed to oversee banks and is now back at work at Citigroup. [A Citigroup Lawyer Helped Trump Pick Bank Regulators, Then Returned To Work At The Bank](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Government Executive reports that President Donald Trump threw his support behind dramatic changes to federal employees' retirement and health benefits, calling the current system "unsustainable." The article notes that decreases in feds' benefits will likely come through Congress with the House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman promising sweeping reforms in this area. [White House Throws Weight Behind Cutting Feds' Retirement, Health Benefits](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: January 26-27, February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

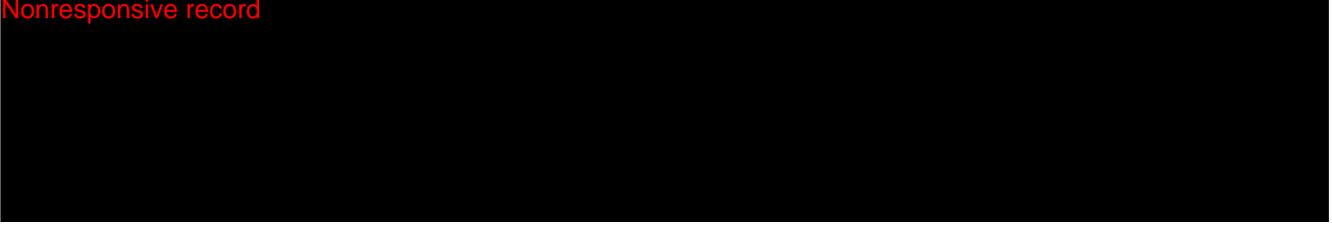
From: [Heather A. Jones](#)
To: [Deborah J. Bortot](#); [David J. Apol](#); [Director of OGE](#)
Cc: [Seth Jaffe](#); [Leigh J. Francis](#)
Subject: RE: EO on lobbying was signed today
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:51:13 PM
Attachments: [Trump ethics pledge.pdf](#)

All –

Attached is a copy of the new pledge from the WH website.

Heather

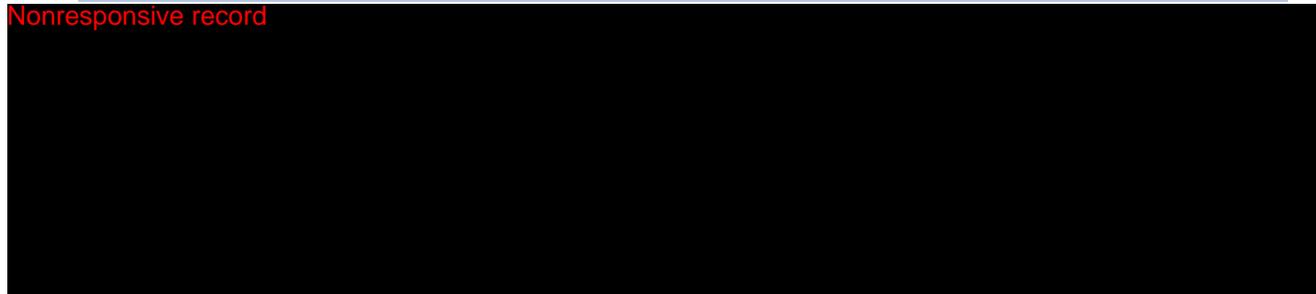
Nonresponsive record



From: [Heather A. Jones](#)
To: [Kimberly L. Sikora Panza](#)
Subject: (b) (5)
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:52:02 PM
Attachments: [Trump ethics pledge.pdf](#)

Here is a copy of the pledge.

Nonresponsive record



From: [Kimberly L. Sikora Panza](#)
To: [Patrick J. Lightfoot](#)
Subject: FYSA
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 8:15:58 AM
Attachments: [Trump ethics pledge.pdf](#)

Not sure if you saw this

Nonresponsive record

From: Rachel K. Dowell
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Ethics EO

Hi Seth –

As you are probably aware, President Trump signed an ethics executive order yesterday (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/28/executive-order-ethics-commitments-executive-branch-appointees>) that sets forth a new Ethics Pledge and revokes EO 13490 (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

I also wanted to volunteer to help implement this EO. Please let me know what I can do to help.

Thanks!

Rachel

From: Leigh Francis
To: [Leigh J. Francis](#)
Subject: EO
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:26:45 AM

"1. I will not, within 5 years after the termination of my employment as an appointee in any executive agency in which I am appointed to serve, engage in lobbying activities with respect to that agency.

"3. In addition to abiding by the limitations of paragraphs 1 and 2, I also agree, upon leaving Government service, not to engage in lobbying activities with respect to any covered executive branch official or non-career Senior Executive Service appointee for the remainder of the Administration.

(n) "Lobbying activities" has the same meaning as that term has in the Lobbying Disclosure Act, except that the term does not include communicating or appearing with regard to: a judicial proceeding; a criminal or civil law enforcement inquiry, investigation, or proceeding; or any agency process for rulemaking, adjudication, or licensing, as defined in and governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*

Lobbying activity is defined by the LDA as "lobbying contacts AND effort in support of such contact, including . . . background work that is intended, at the time it is performed, for use in contacts, and coordination with the lobbying activities of others."

Lobbying contact is defined as "any oral, written, or electronic communication to a covered official that is made on behalf of a client with regard to—

1. The formulation, modification, or adoption of federal legislation, federal rules, regulations, executive orders, or other government programs, policies, or positions;
2. The administration or execution of federal programs or opolicies including the negotiation, award or administration of federal contracts, loans, grants, permits, or licenses); or
3. The nomination or confirmation of a person for a position subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(b) (5)



(f) "Lobby" and "lobbied" shall mean to act or have acted as a registered lobbyist. (second point above)

In DAEOgram-10-004, OGE defined this further, as follows: "For purposes of the Pledge, to lobby is "to act . . . as a registered lobbyist." Exec. Order 13490, sec. 2(f). A registered lobbyist, in turn, is a person listed in required filings as a lobbyist for a particular client by a registrant under the LDA, 2 U.S.C. § 1603(a), because of the person's actual or anticipated lobbying activities and contacts. Executive Order 13490, sec. 2(e); see 2 U.S.C. §§ 1602(10)

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

--
Leigh J. Francis, Esq.*

*Licensed to practice in Virginia

From: Brandon A. Steele
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Cc: [News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, January 30, 2017
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 1:08:30 PM

The Senate reconvenes at 3:00 p.m.

The Senate reconvenes at 3 p.m. and will be in a period of morning business. At 5 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Rex Tillerson to be secretary of State. Following up to 30 minutes of debate, the Senate will hold a cloture vote on the nomination.

The House reconvenes at 2:00 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Various outlets discuss the EO related to ethics commitments by executive branch employees.

[Trump Toughens Some Facets of Lobbying Ban and Weakens Others](#) [Trump lobbying ban weakens Obama rules](#) [Trump blocks revolving door for lobbyists](#) [Trump imposes lifetime ban on some lobbying, five years for others](#) [Trump puts five-year lobbying ban on his political appointees](#) [Trump's Ethics Order Seen as Boost for Shadow Lobbying](#) [Trump's Executive Order On Ethics Pulls Word For Word From Obama, Clinton](#) [Trump Administration Executive Order on Ethics Breaks New Ground](#) [Trump lobbying ban strips out language requiring public reporting on ethics compliance](#) [Trump lobbying ban strips out language requiring public reporting on ethics compliance](#) [Trump sets tougher restrictions on lobbying by officials](#) *NPR* reports that the Office of Legal Counsel has not confirmed whether it was consulted on any of the recent EOs. [Key Justice Dept. Office Won't Say If It Approved White House Executive Orders](#) The EO is [here](#).

Newsweek reports that an analysis of ethics agreements “shows that none of the compacts mention the 2009 executive order that requires incoming officials to sign a pledge to avoid participating in policies that ‘directly and substantially relate to [their] former employer or former clients’ for the first two years of government service. POGO is quoted as stating “the Office of Government Ethics is not applying the Obama ethics order. Because it is still in place, OGE isn’t following the law...”

[OBAMA ETHICS RULE UNENFORCED IN TRUMP WHITE HOUSE](#)

Multiple outlets discuss various aspects of President Trump’s alleged conflicts of interest. [President Trump's Muslim ban excludes countries linked to his sprawling business empire](#) [Trump's Immigration Ban Excludes Countries With Business Ties](#) [This week in Donald Trump's conflicts of interest: Business meets government at his inauguration](#) [Trump Follows Mayor Bloomberg's Ethics Steps: Critics Call That Inadequate](#) **[WHY TRUMP'S CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WON'T HURT HIM](#)** [How Does Trump's Immigration Freeze Square With His Business Interests?](#) [Trump Organization's Ethics Team Tied to Trump U, Dark Money](#)

Outlets discuss the transition. [Tales Of Presidential Transition Woe, With The Associated Press](#) [Republicans aim to break jam on Trump nominees](#) [Donald Trump Puts Coal Lobbyist in Charge of Prosecuting Environmental Crimes](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Fed Smith reports that the new administration intends to cut the EPA workforce by up to half. [Trump Plans to Cut EPA Workforce by as Much as 50%](#)

International Ethics and Related News

Forbes reports that a petition is circulating in Kenya’s parliament to introduce the concept of a blind trust. [Kenyan Politician Advocates For Blind Trust To End Corruption](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

Referral to Dept. of State



From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, January 31, 2017
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:36:56 AM

The Senate reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

The Senate reconvenes at noon and will consider the nomination of Elaine L. Chao to be secretary of Transportation, following up to 20 minutes of debate, the Senate will vote on the nomination. Following disposition of the Chao nomination, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Rex Tillerson to be secretary of State.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Washington Post reports that the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee agenda for the next two years includes no planned inquiries into the Trump organization's global entanglements and the potential for conflicts of interest but instead includes a look at reform at the Office of Government Ethics. [Oversight has no Trump-related probes planned](#)

Roll Call and *The Hill* report that Senate Democrats are willing to drag out Senate consideration of Cabinet nominees over President Donald Trump's immigration executive order. [Travel Ban Fuels Slowdown of Trump Nominees \(Roll Call\)](#); [Senate Democrats block vote on Trump Treasury pick \(The Hill\)](#) In a related article, *The Hill* reports that a committee vote for Small Business Administration nominee Linda McMahon was also blocked and notes that her financial disclosures and ethics agreement were still missing from the Office of Government Ethics' website on Monday night. [Dems delay committee vote on SBA nominee](#)

The Hill and *CNN* report that some senators want to delay a vote on the nomination of President Trump's pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services amid ethics concerns. [Dems push to postpone vote on health secretary \(The Hill\)](#); [Democrats seek delay in Price vote over ethics concerns \(CNN\)](#)

Atlanta Journal Constitution and *World Net Daily* report that a watchdog group is asking congressional ethics officials to investigate Rep. John Lewis and his chief of staff over apparent violations of House ethics rules regarding Lewis' reelection campaign. [Conservative group files ethics complaint against John Lewis, top aide \(Atlanta Journal Constitution\)](#); [Rep. John Lewis hit with ethics complaint \(World Net Daily\)](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Government Executive and *Roll Call* report that ethics specialists found both positive and negative provisions in the new executive order on ethics, noting that some experts state that it creates two major loopholes. [Trump's Lobbying Ban Draws Mixed Reviews From Ethics Groups \(Government Executive\)](#); [Trump's Lobbying Ban May Not Curb K Street Influence \(Roll Call\)](#) *The Hill* reports that lobbyists are coming to grips with the new executive order that weakens many of the restrictions that were imposed on their industry by the Obama administration. [Lobbyists adjust to Trump's new rules](#) See also, [Trump's Lobbying Policy Will Not Stop Rampant Corruption \(Common Dreams\)](#)

The Real Deal reports that President Donald Trump began moving his New York City real estate portfolio into the "Donald J Trump Revocable Trust" on Dec. 31 and New Year's Day. [It's official: Trump begins transferring NYC properties into trust](#)

Several outlets report that the man tapped to be secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services testified in his Senate confirmation hearings that the discounted shares he bought in Innate Immunotherapeutics, an Australian medical biotechnology company, "were available to every single individual that was an investor at the time," when in fact, the cabinet nominee was one of only six new U.S. investors who were invited last year to buy discounted shares of the company — an opportunity that arose from an invitation from a company director and fellow congressmen. [Trump health pick Tom Price pressed over purchase of shares in ASX-listed biotech Innate \(The Australian\)](#); [STATEMENT: REP. PRICE SHOULD WITHDRAW HIS NOMINATION \(U.S.](#)

[PIRG](#)); [More Trouble for Tom Price on His Biomedical Investments \(New York Magazine\)](#); [Contrary To Sworn Testimony, Company Confirms Trump's HHS Pick Got Special Stock Deal \(The Huffington Post\)](#); [Company says Price got exclusive discount on medical stock \(The Hill\)](#)
Boston.com reports on the Emoluments Clause and President Trump's refusal to place his vast business empire in a blind trust. [Experts say President Trump is violating the Constitution. What happens now?](#)

Multiple outlets report on President Trump's alleged conflict of interest related to the immigration ban. [Did Trump's Financial Ties Influence the Immigration Order? \(The Atlantic\)](#); [The sinister possible reason why Trump's "Muslim ban" targeted seven particular countries \(Quartz\)](#)

The Intercept reports that a lobbyist for a utility company that heavily relies on coal-fueled power plants and has clashed with regulators is the new acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Department of Justice division that oversees environmental crimes. [Donald Trump Puts Coal Lobbyist in Charge of Prosecuting Environmental Crimes](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal Times reports that beyond the hiring freeze, all eyes will be on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) plan to reduce the size of the federal government's workforce through attrition and what OMB prioritizes for the federal workforce. [Forget the hiring freeze, OMB plan could alter the workforce](#)

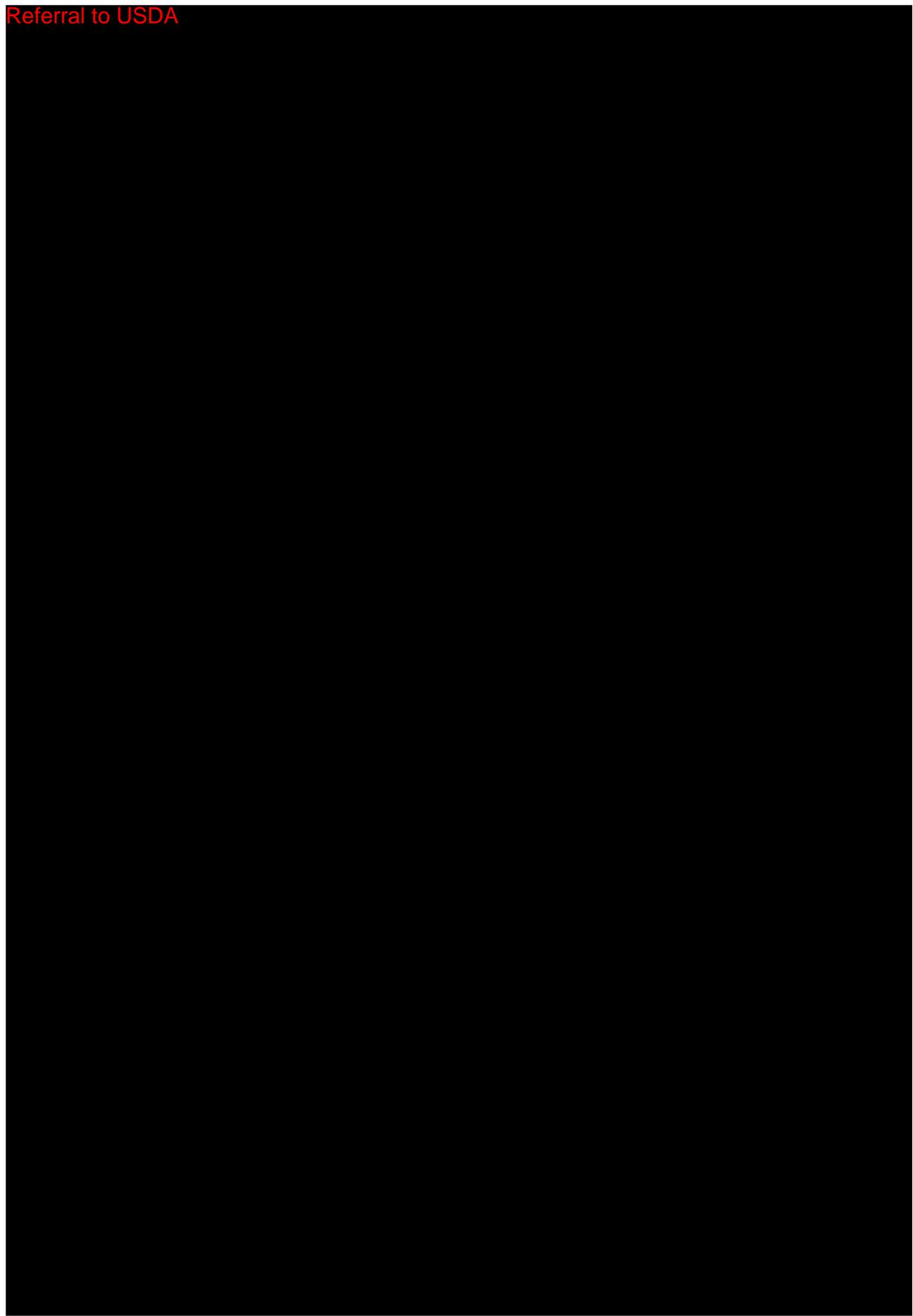
Federal News Radio and *Government Executive* report that pursuant to a new Executive Order, for every new regulation an agency issues, it will have to identify at least two others that it will repeal. [New executive order creates a 'budget for regulations' \(Federal News Radio\)](#); [Trump Signs One In, Two Out Order to Slash Federal Regulations \(Government Executive\)](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

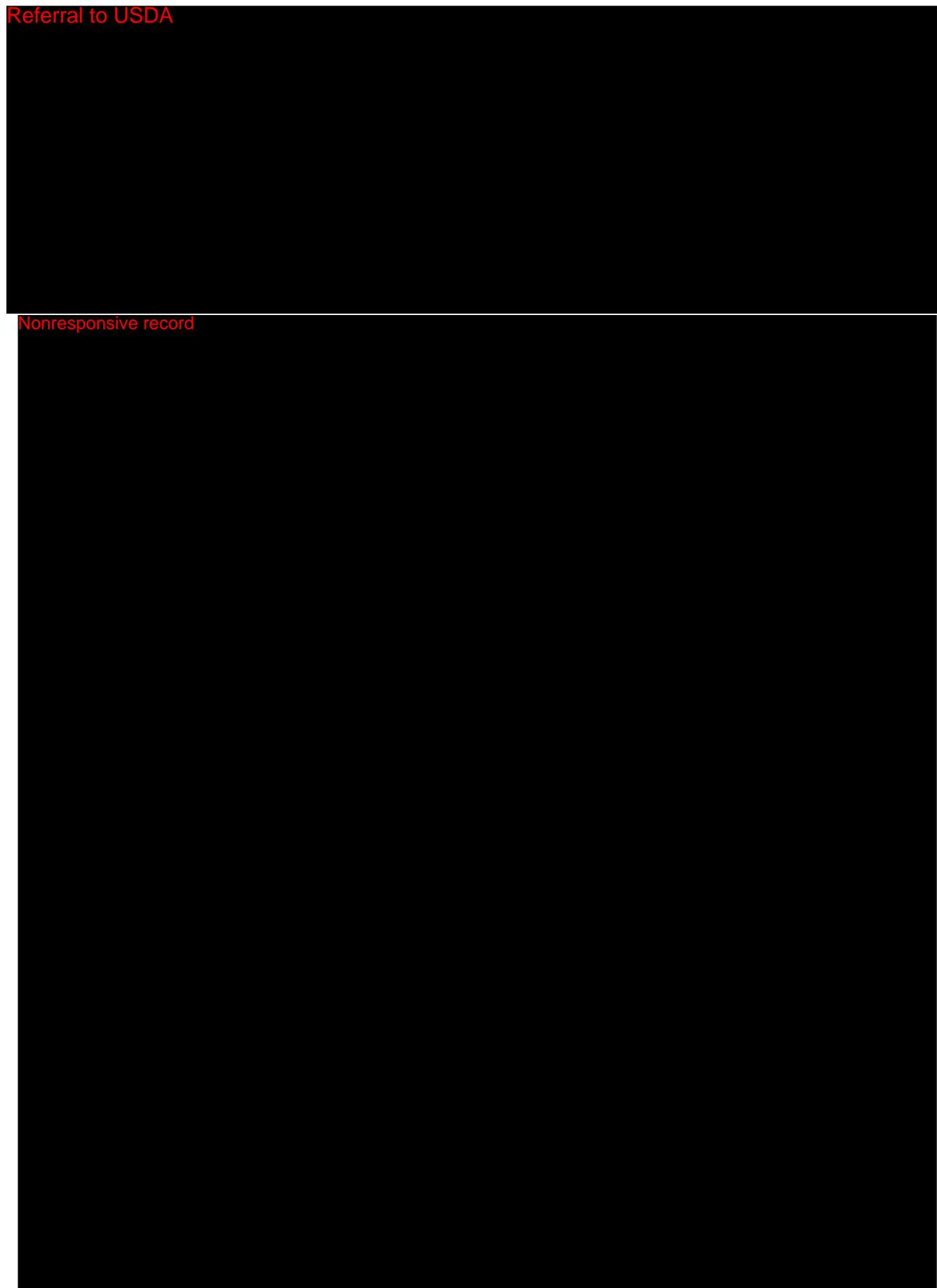
House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

Referral to USDA



Referral to USDA



Nonresponsive record

Nonresponsive record

From: Deborah J. Bortot
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 3:42 PM
To: (b)(6) Gabrielle D'Adamo email address
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report John Michael Mulvaney

Good Afternoon,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for John Michael Mulvaney. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate Representative Mulvaney for the position of Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Thanks!

Deborah J. Bortot
Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Telephone: (202) 482-9227
Facsimile: (202) 482-9237

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transmission to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or use of this email or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by responding to the email and then immediately delete the email.

<Mulvaney, John M Final 278.pdf>

<Mulvaney, John M Signed Ethics Agreement -- January 13 2017.pdf>

<Mulvaney, John M FinalLTRTOSENATE 1-14 Budget.pdf>

<Mulvaney, John M FinalLTRTOSENATE 1-14 HSGAC.PDF>

From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, February 1, 2017
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:28:57 PM

The Senate reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

The Senate reconvened at noon and will resume consideration of the nomination of Rex W. Tillerson to be secretary of State, postcloture. The Senate is expected to vote on the nomination at 2:30 p.m.

The House reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvened at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a measure (H J Res 38) that would disapprove of the Interior Department's Stream Protection rule and a measure (H J Res 41) that would disapprove of the SEC's rule that requires U.S.-registered companies that develop oil, gas and other minerals to disclose certain payments made to foreign governments and the U.S. government.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill reports that the Senate Finance Committee voted to change the committee's standing rules to advance two nominees with only Republican members present. The previous rule required at least one member of each party to be in attendance for committee work to proceed. [GOP changes rules to push through nominees after Dem boycott](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

FEDWeek reports on OGE's Director's Note concerning the impartiality rule. [Impartiality Rule Goes Beyond Conflict of Interest Ban, Says OGE](#)

CNN reports that Chairman Chaffetz was asked in an interview today whether the House Oversight Committee would investigate President Trump's possible conflicts of interest. According to the article, the Chairman replied that "as issues come up, we'll deal with them one at a time." [Chaffetz: Committee may investigate Trump's conflicts of interest](#)

WTOP reports on Ben Carson's ethics agreement. [HUD nominee Carson details steps to untangle business ties](#)

NBC-2 reports that Andrew Puzder's confirmation hearing has been delayed for the fourth time, in part because he has not yet signed an ethics agreement. According to the article, the chairman of the HELP committee stated that the hearing, most recent set for February 7, won't be rescheduled until the committee receives his paperwork from the Office of Government Ethics. [Why Puzder's confirmation hearing delayed for 4th time](#)

The New York Times reports on potential conflicts of interest facing Vincent Viola, nominee for Secretary of the Army. [Trump's Army Secretary Pick Could Trade One Potential Conflict for Another](#)

Buzzfeed reports that Neil Gorsuch would be subject to less stringent financial disclosure and ethics rules as a Supreme Court Justice compared to his current position as a Circuit Court judge. [Gorsuch Would Join The Supreme Court Millionaires' Club If He's Confirmed](#)

The Washington Post reports that workers at President Trump's Old Post Office hotel have voted to join a labor union. Noting that the president will be able to appoint Members of the National Labor Relations Board, the article states that the recent unionization effort "again highlights the thorny entanglements facing the businessman-president, who has given corporate management responsibilities to his children but has refused to divest from his business interests." [Workers at Trump's Washington hotel vote to join union, casting spotlight on potential conflicts](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Roll Call reports that recent history suggests that President Trump may miss a statutory deadline for submitting a budget request to Congress. [Deadline for Presidential Budget Request Often Missed](#)

Federal News Radio reports that an upswing of FOIA requests has left many federal agencies struggling to keep pace. [Surge in information requests, hiring freeze puts pressure on overburdened FOIA offices](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, February 2, 2017
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:14:43 PM

The Senate reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 11 a.m., and will resume consideration of a joint resolution (H J Res 38), that would disapprove of an Interior Department rule that requires surface coal mining operations to avoid disturbing streams. Six hours of debate remain on the joint resolution.

The House reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvened at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a measure (H J Res 40) that would disapprove of the Social Security Administration's rule that shares information on certain non-elderly, mentally-impaired beneficiaries for inclusion in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. It is also expected to consider a measure (H J Res 37) that would disapprove of the Defense Department, General Services Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration rule that requires federal contractors to self-certify violations of 14 labor laws.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The American Prospect reports that the House has voted to repeal global anti-corruption laws.

[Taking Corruption International](#)

Multiple outlets discuss Rep. Chaffetz' leadership of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. [Constituents voice concern over Chaffetz's lack of inquiries into Trump's possible conflicts of interest If Chaffetz won't do his job, replace him](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets discuss Rex Tillerson's confirmation. [SENATE APPROVES C.E.O. WITH NO GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE Tillerson Vow to Keep Away From Exxon Runs Into World of Oil Despite Delays, Rex Tillerson Gets Confirmed By The Senate As Secretary Of State](#)

The St. Louis Post Dispatch reports on the delays to nominee Puzder's hearing. [Hearing for labor secretary nominee delayed; group sues to open St. Louis divorce files](#)

The Hartford Courant reports that to avoid conflicts of interests, Linda McMahon said she would begin divesting certain assets and positions if she is confirmed as head of the Small Business Administration. [McMahon To Dump Some Assets, Positions To Avoid Conflicts](#)

USA Today discusses nominee Tom Price's actions in relation to the Stock Act. [HHS nominee Tom Price bought stock, then authored bill benefiting company](#)

The Texas Observer reports on nominee Rick Perry's potential conflicts of interest. [As Energy Secretary, Rick Perry Would Have Radioactive Conflicts](#)

The Daily Progress reports that government watchdog groups say that while President Trump has tightened some restrictions on lobbyists, he has loosened others. [Watchdogs say Trump's lobbying limits leave the swamp half-full](#)

Multiple sources discuss President Trump's conflicts of interest. [Stock Act may be Trump's 'Achilles Heel' \(Letters\) Trump Businesses' Foreign Debt Could Be A Conflict Of Interest AJC Watchdog: minefields await Trump's new ethics chief](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [Jim Robertson](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, February 3, 2017
Date: Friday, February 03, 2017 2:25:25 PM

The Senate reconvened at 6:30 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 6:30 a.m. and will vote on passage of a joint resolution (H J Res 41) that would disapprove a Securities and Exchange Commission rule requiring companies to disclose payments made to foreign governments for rights to develop energy, A subsequent vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Betsy DeVos to be secretary of Education is expected.

The House reconvened at 9 a.m.

The House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a measure (H J Res 36) that would disapprove of the Interior Department's Venting and Flaring Rule.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Government Executive reports that a coalition of 16 transparency groups and three legal specialists are pressing Senate committee chairmen to consistently require the release of the nominees' personal background documents. [Senate Panels Pressed to Open Up Nominees' Files Before Confirmation Hearings](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets report on OGE emails obtained through a FOIA request. The emails discuss early transition communications between the transition team and OGE's Director. [Gov't Ethics Chief Warned Trump Cabinet Staffing Process Was 'Unprecedented' Donald Trump warned over 'unprecedented' plan to appoint cabinet without ethics office checks, emails reveal](#)

Politico reports that ethics watchdogs have voiced public access concerns in connection with how President Trump has structured a number of his advisory groups. [Trump may be skirting transparency law on advisory boards](#)

The AJC reports that President Trump's new ethics counsel's work could be made more difficult because of the President's own conflict of interest profile. [Former White House lawyer says Trump's ethics chief has work to do](#)

Bloomberg reports on Robert Lighthizer's ethics agreement and concludes that the President's pick to become the top U.S. trade representative could find himself making policy decisions that affect his biggest former client. [Trump's Trade Representative Could Negotiate for His Biggest Client's Industry](#)

Multiple outlets report on the confirmation status of two nominees. [Trump OMB Nominee Clears Two Senate Panels Along Party Lines DeVos clears Senate procedural vote DeVos clears procedural hurdle in Senate, setting up tight final vote](#)

The Washington Post reports that a Naval Special Warfare Unit is under investigation for displaying a Trump campaign flag on one of its convoy vehicles. [A special warfare unit was spotted flying a Trump flag in public. Now the Navy is investigating.](#)

USA Today reports that Democrats on the Senate homeland security panel have sent a letter to the inspector general of the General Services Administration asking her to review the agency's management of a lease involving the Trump International Hotel. [Democrats ask inspector general to review Trump's hotel lease](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, February 6, 2017
Date: Monday, February 06, 2017 12:03:27 PM

The Senate reconvenes at 12 p.m.

The Senate convenes at 12:00 p.m. to begin a period of morning business. Thereafter, it will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Elisabeth DeVos to be Secretary of Education.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Washington Post reports on the “Follow the Rules Act,” approved by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee last week. The bill would tighten whistleblower protections.

[Bipartisan Hill leaders warn White House on whistleblowers](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill publishes an opinion piece by Norman Eisen and Richard Painter arguing that Betsy DeVos has not sufficiently addressed her potential conflicts of interest. [The ethics case against Betsy DeVos](#)

Bloomberg publishes an opinion piece on the revocable trust established by Donald Trump to house assets of the Trump Organization. [Trump's Ethics Plan Is Even Worse Than You Thought](#)

Government Executive reports on the delays regarding Andrew Puzder’s confirmation hearing. The article notes that “[t]o veterans of the appointments process, Puzder’s experience is a case study in why new administrations should vet potential nominees for financial conflicts of interests before naming them to their posts—something the Trump transition did not do in assembling the Cabinet.” The article also quotes Max Stier of the Partnership for Public Service, who said: “It’s a rare person who has full appreciation of what’s involved in going through this process. It’s protection both for the administration as well as the nominee or potential nominee to be able to have that private preview.” [President Trump's Missing Labor Secretary](#)

The Christian Science Monitor reports that Vincent Viola withdrew his name from consideration to serve as Secretary of the Army. The article quotes Director Shaub’s comments last month praising Rex Tillerson’s ethics agreement. [Why Vincent Viola turned down Trump's nomination for Army Secretary](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Radio reports on the first meeting for the 115th Congress of the congressional Transparency Caucus. The article discusses the increase in FOIA requests received by OGE since the beginning of the fiscal year. [Transparency caucus pledges bipartisan effort, restoring public trust in open government](#)

Politico reports on some of the questions being asked about the Trump Administration’s executive order on regulation. [Five big questions about Trump's executive order on regulation](#)

Hearing of Interest

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on "A Look Ahead: Inspector General Recommendations for Improving Federal Agencies."

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.

253 Russell Bldg.

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [\(b\)\(6\) Randall Hall email address](#); [Kimberly L. Sikora Panza](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Seema Verma
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 8:40:29 AM
Attachments: [Verma, Seema finalsenateltr.pdf](#)
[Verma, Seema finalEA.pdf](#)
[Verma, Seema final278.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Seema Verma, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson
Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202-482-9283

From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [\(b\)\(6\) Vahab email address](#); ["Martin, Janice N"](#); [Kimberly L. Sikora Panza](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of David M. Friedman
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 8:48:09 AM
Attachments: [Friedman, David finalsenateltr.pdf](#)
[Friedman, David FINAL EA.pdf](#)
[Friedman, David final278.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for David M. Friedman, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of United States Ambassador to Israel, Department of State.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson
Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202-482-9283

From: [Cheryl L. Kane-Piasecki](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Subject: FW: [GRAYMAIL] Hatch Act Guidance Concerning the President's Status as a Candidate
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 10:17:59 AM
Attachments: [2017 Pres Candidate Guidance.pdf](#)
[HA OA on Expressing Views.pdf](#)

Good Morning—

The Office of Special Counsel just released today 2 guidance documents that I recommend everyone take some time to read. The first deals with President Trump's status as a candidate for the 2020 elections and how that affects employees' activity in the federal workplace. The second is a FAQ dealing with employees' expression of views on policies, current events, etc. in the workplace.

As always, please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks!

Cheryl

Cheryl Kane-Piasecki

ADAEO

Program Counsel Division

T: 202-482-9252

Email: clkanepi@oge.gov

www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter @OfficeGovEthics

From: Hatchact Update [mailto:hatchactupdate@OSC.GOV]

Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 9:47 AM

To: HATCHACT@LISTSERV.OSC.GOV

Subject: [GRAYMAIL] Hatch Act Guidance Concerning the President's Status as a Candidate

Good morning.

We have been receiving a lot of phone calls and emails from agency ethics officials and federal employees concerning President Trump, his status as a candidate in the 2020 Presidential Election, and what the Hatch Act prohibits federal employees from doing/saying in the workplace. We have put together some guidance that we think will clear up any confusion regarding this issue, and we hope you will share it with the employees you advise. Attached is an advisory opinion discussing President Trump's status as a candidate and its effect on employees' activity in the federal workplace. This opinion has been posted on our website. Also attached is a new FAQ that we have added to our website that discusses employees expressing their views about current events, policy issues, and matters of public interest in the workplace.

Thank you for your assistance in providing this guidance to employees.

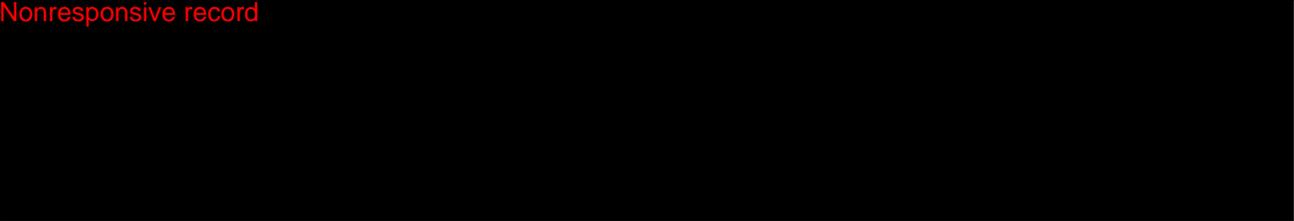
OSC's Hatch Act Unit

Please do not send a reply e-mail message to the above-listed address as it is not monitored.

However, if you have any Hatch Act related questions, feel free to contact the Hatch Act Unit at 202-254-3650 or send an e-mail to Hatchact@osc.gov.

To unsubscribe from the HATCHACT list, click the following link:
<http://listserv.osc.gov/scripts/wa-OSC.exe?SUBED1=HATCHACT&A=1>

Nonresponsive record



From: Rachel K. Dowell

Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 9:10 AM

To: Leigh J. Francis

Subject: FW: New assignment

Here are some resources for the meeting. Also see https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/will-trump-follow-through-and-drain-the-swamp/2017/02/06/0d9ea91c-e8b8-11e6-b82f-687d6e6a3e7c_story.html?utm_term=.fec220495573.

Nonresponsive record



From: Brandon A. Steele
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, February 7, 2017
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 11:31:23 AM

The Senate is not in session.

The House reconvenes at 12 p.m.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a measure (H J Res 44) that would disapprove of the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Planning rule, a measure (H J Res 58) that would disapprove of the Education Department's Teacher Preparation Issues rule and a measure (H J Res 57) that would disapprove of the Education Department's Accountability and State Plans Under ESEA rule.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets report on President Trump's alleged COIs. [Questions surrounding Trump's conflicts of interest intensify Ethics: Good of the U.S. must be president's first priority Trump vowed to 'drain the swamp.' Now, he could benefit by secret special-interest cash Trump's Campaign Paid Millions To His Own Properties, FEC Documents Say Trump still has tie to businesses, documents show Legal Scholars: Why Congress Should Impeach Donald Trump All the President's Conflicts Trump Assets in Revocable, Not Blind, Trust](#)

Think Progress and *The Washington Post* report that court filings in Ms. Trump's defamation suit against Daily Mail reveal that the claimed damages stem from a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to "launch a broad-based commercial brand in multiple product categories, each of which could have garnered multi-million dollar business relationships for a multi-year term" during the time Ms. Trump is First Lady and "one of the most photographed women in the world." The article ties this into President Trump's "[refusal] to divest his myriad holdings." [Melania Trump reveals plan to leverage presidency to ink 'multi-million dollar' endorsement deals Melania Trump missed out on 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity' to make millions, lawsuit says](#)

Multiple outlets report on the transition. [Donald Trump's Cabinet Is Taking Longer Than Normal to Fill President Trump's Missing Labor Secretary The limbo president: leading by lowering the bar With Viola out, new service secretaries could take months Trump's Labor nominee Andrew Puzder hired an undocumented immigrant as houseworker More Trouble for Andrew Puzder Senate Dogged By Delays In Confirming Trump Cabinet Nominees Group of House Republicans Implores Trump to Fire IRS Chief Senate set for high-noon vote to confirm DeVos Cabinet nominees are getting more 'no' votes than ever](#)

The media picked up on our legal advisory on the EO, and the social media efforts around it.

[Retweet from Hill reporter](#)

The Washington Times reports that President Obama accepted \$30k in gifts in 2016 according to disclosure forms released by OGE. [President Obama accepted \\$30,000 worth of gifts in final year in office](#)

Executive Branch and Related News

Fed Smith reports that while since the election the retirement application backlog at OPM increased by 53% that this is actually lower than in prior years. The article opines that a retirement exodus of federal employees appears unlikely. [After Trump: A Surge of Federal Employees Leaving Government?](#) See also [Average January retirement surge falls short of alarmist predictions](#)

The Washington Times reports that during the most recent reporting period around 17 IRS employees were "found to have intentionally cheated on their taxes." [Some IRS employees cheated on their taxes and agency let most keep their jobs](#)

The White House issued guidance on the EO related to reducing regulations. [Memorandum: Interim Guidance Implementing Section 2 of the Executive Order of January 30, 2017, Titled "Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs"](#)

Federal News Radio discusses the typical process when an agency implements an executive order. [How do agencies plan and implement an executive order?](#)

Hearing of Interest

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on "A Look Ahead: Inspector General Recommendations for Improving Federal Agencies."

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.

253 Russell Bldg.

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

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From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, February 8, 2017
Date: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 10:10:57 AM

The Senate remains in session from the legislative day that began on Feb. 6, 2017.

The Senate remains in session from the legislative day that began on Feb. 6, 2017. Votes are expected at 6:50 p.m. on the nomination of Sen. Jeff B. Sessions to be attorney general, and on cloture on the nomination of Rep. Tom Price to be secretary of Health and Human Services.

The House is not in session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The New York Daily News reports on Rep. Chaffetz and the oversight of President Trump's conflicts of interest. [Oversight panel unlikely to probe Trump's conflicts of interest](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill reports that financial disclosure documents have been posted to the website of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) for several nominees including Steven Mnuchin, the nominee for Treasury secretary; Ben Carson, the nominee for Housing secretary; former Texas governor Rick Perry (R), the nominee for Energy secretary; and for Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), the nominee for Interior secretary. [New financial forms for Trump Cabinet nominees released](#)

Roll Call reports that "the Office of Government Ethics may "very soon" publicly post an agreement with Seema Verma, the Trump administration's choice to run the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services." [CMS Chief Nomination Is Advancing in Vetting Process, HHS Says - See more at: http://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/cms-chief-nomination-advancing-vetting-process-hhs-says#sthash.eH9VqOEH.dpuf](#)

Multiple outlets report that the Department of Defense is considering renting space in Trump Tower, leading to concerns about conflicts of interest. [US Department of Defence considers renting space in Trump Tower, sparking conflict of interest concerns](#) [Defense Department looking to rent rooms in Trump Tower](#) [Pentagon Considers Leasing Space at Trump Tower](#)

Politico and the *Wall Street Journal* report that fossil fuel industry lobbyist Mike Catanzaro is under consideration to serve as an energy adviser on the National Economic Council. [White House eyeing fossil fuel lobbyist for energy adviser job](#) [Trump Expected to Name Fossil Fuel Lobbyist to Advise on Energy Issues](#)

AP reports that Labor Secretary nominee Andrew Puzder acknowledged that he had employed a housekeeper who wasn't authorized to work in the U.S. [Labor nominee admits he employed housekeeper not authorized to work in U.S.](#)

Beloit Daily News reports on nominee Tom Price's stock trading. [HHS PICK PRICE MADE 'BRAZEN' STOCK TRADES WHILE HIS COMMITTEE WAS UNDER SCRUTINY](#)

Politico reports on the political activity of Heather Wilson, nominee to be Air Force Secretary. [Records show how Air Force nominee skirted lobbying restrictions](#)

Multiple outlets report on President Trump's conflicts of interest. [Weekend visit to Trump resort by Japan's Abe raises an ethics question: Who pays?](#) [Melania Trump Inc. Imperiled To Avoid Conflict Of Interest](#) [Donald Trump Jr Takes Over Hotel Near White House](#) [Trump's conflicts are unprecedented, but not unique: A short history of Republican corruption](#) [Ex-White House ethics lawyer warns Trump to use better judgement in public statements](#)

Hearing of Interest

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on "A Look Ahead: Inspector General Recommendations for Improving Federal Agencies."

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.

253 Russell Bldg.

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10; 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

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Nonresponsive record

From: Mallin, Alexander W. [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: ABC News Inquiry

Hi Seth,

Reaching out to see if the OGE has any comment on Kellyanne Conway's appearance on Fox News this morning, where she explicitly told viewers to buy products from Ivanka Trump's company.

Would this be considered a rule violation of this OGE regulation?

<https://oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations/5D633072D0B2DB5085257E96006A90E7>

Will there be any contact to the White House about this?

Thanks,

Alex

Alexander Mallin // ABC News Washington // (b) (6) // @alex_mallin

From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, February 9, 2017
Date: Thursday, February 09, 2017 12:49:01 PM

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and resumes consideration of the nomination of Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., to be secretary of Health and Human Services.

The House meets in a pro forma session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that the Department of Education joins the Environmental Protection Agency and the Election Assistance Commission with bills in Congress with the goal of closing down the agency. [Education Dept. added to list of agencies some lawmakers want to kill](#)

Federal News Radio and *FCW* report that members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform requested unredacted documents related to President Trump's stake in the Washington, D.C. luxury hotel that's leasing the property from the General Services Administration. [Oversight lawmakers continuing push for more information on GSA lease and Trump hotel \(Federal News Radio\)](#); [Oversight Dems renew bid for Trump lease info \(FCW\)](#)

The Hill reports that the Office of Congressional Ethics included a defense of its policies governing investigations of lawmakers in a quarterly report after House members tried to weaken it at the start of the new Congress last month. [Ethics office defends practices after GOP push to dismantle it](#)

The Journal reports that a subtle change to how new members are chosen for the Office of Congressional Ethics' (OCE) board, which authorizes its investigations, is raising concerns among accountability and ethics organizations that believe it could make the OCE more vulnerable to partisanship and in the process, weaken its investigations of misconduct by lawmakers. [Under-the-radar change to congressional ethics watchdog may weaken it](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that a supervisory agent at the Bureau of Land Management used his law enforcement status to get three tickets to the Burning Man festival which the Interior inspector general says is a violation of the statutory ban on soliciting gifts from prohibited sources. [Cheatin' BLM agent singled at Burning Man](#)

Multiple outlets report that President Trump's official counselor, Kellyanne Conway, may have broken a key ethics rule when she told TV audiences to "go buy Ivanka's stuff" since federal employees are banned from using their public office to endorse products. [Conway may have broken key ethics rule by touting Ivanka Trump's products, experts say \(The Washington Post\)](#); [Conway promotes Trump daughter's merchandise: 'Go buy Ivanka's stuff' \(The Hill\)](#)

Multiple outlets report that President Trump's tweet criticizing Nordstrom raises ethics concerns. [Trump's Nordstrom tweet raises ethics concerns \(Washington Examiner\)](#); [After Nordstrom dumps Ivanka, Trump lashes out, fueling charges of conflict \(The Japan Times\)](#); [Trump blasts Nordstrom for dropping Ivanka's clothing line \(Politico\)](#); [Obama ethics czar: Trump's Nordstrom tweet an 'abuse' of presidency \(The Hill\)](#); [Trump's Nordstrom attack revives business ethics concerns \(Reuters\)](#); [Why Trump's Nordstrom Tweet May Have Crossed An Ethical Line \(Fast Company\)](#)

Business Insider reports that Sen. Bob Casey referred President Donald Trump's tweet about Nordstrom to the Office of Government Ethics for review. [Democratic senator refers Trump's tweet attacking Nordstrom to government ethics office](#)

Multiple outlets report that President Donald Trump's nominee for secretary of labor has proposed avoiding conflicts of interest by resigning as CEO of his fast food empire, selling off hundreds of holdings and recusing himself from government decisions in which he has a financial interest, according to his ethics filings with the government. [Labor secretary nominee addresses conflicts of interest \(Fox Business\)](#); [Trump's Labor pick lays out plans to avoid conflict of interest \(The Hill\)](#); [Puzder says he'd quit as CEO if confirmed as labor secretary \(The Washington Post\)](#)

NPR reports on President Trump's revocable trust. [Ethics Experts Find Holes In Trump's Firewall Against Conflicts](#)

Independent reports that ethics watchdogs are worried the First Lady seems to be inappropriately trying to profit from a high-profile position that is usually centered on public service. [Donald Trump's family use the White House for business enterprises 'like the Kardashians used reality TV'](#) *PBS* and *AZ Central* report that President Trump's choice to be the top U.S. health official bought and sold health care company stocks often enough as a member of Congress to warrant probes by both federal securities regulators and the House ethics committee. [HHS pick Tom Price made 'brazen' stock trades while his committee was under scrutiny \(PBS\)](#); [New stock questions plague HHS nominee Tom Price as confirmation vote nears \(AZ Central\)](#)

Inside Climate News reports that a watchdog group has filed a lawsuit against President Trump's nominee to head the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, for denying access to past communications he has had with fossil fuel companies and related advocacy groups and funders.

[EPA Nominee Pruitt Sued by Watchdog Group for Emails With Fossil Fuel Backers](#)

NMPolitics.net reports that when Rep. Heather Wilson, President Trump's pick for Secretary of the Air Force, left Congress in 2009, she went to work as a paid consultant for a subsidiary of weapons-contracting giant Lockheed Martin and helped them to craft a lobbying strategy meant to avoid having to compete for the renewal of a government contract that brought in huge profits. [Air Force nominee Wilson helped contractor seek more federal funds](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Multiple outlets report that several advocacy groups have sued the Trump administration over the president's executive order to restrict federal agencies' ability to issue regulations. [Advocacy Groups Sue Trump Over One In, Two Out Regulatory Policy \(Government Executive\)](#); [Groups sue to block president's government regulations order \(Federal Times\)](#); [Trump sued over '1-in-2-out' regulations order \(The Hill\)](#)

Hearing of Interest

Judicial Transparency and Ethics

House Judiciary — Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet

Subcommittee Hearing

Feb. 14, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn Bldg.

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

From: [Jim Robertson](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, February 10, 2017
Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:12:59 PM

The Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m. and resumed post-cloture consideration of the nomination of Steven Mnuchin to be secretary of the Treasury.

The House is not in session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Federal Times reports that the chief of staff to a former congresswoman pleaded guilty to fraud charges related to a college scholarship fraud scheme he allegedly operated with the congresswoman. His admission of guilt now implicates the congresswoman in the fraud scheme. [Chief of staff implicates congresswoman in \\$800K scholarship fraud](#)

Politico and *The Hill* report that the chairman of the House government oversight committee received candid feedback from his constituents at a town hall meeting, particularly on the subject of conflicts of interest. [Chaffetz booed at rowdy town hall](#) [Protesters swarm Chaffetz town hall](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets report on the recent, nationally televised endorsement of a Trump family member's business by an advisor of President Trump. [Conway apologized to Trump for promoting Ivanka brand: report](#) [Kellyanne Conway apologized to Donald Trump after Ivanka clothing line comments](#) *The Washington Post* reports that, according to the White House press office, Conway had been "counseled" on the matter [White House says Conway has been 'counseled' after touting Ivanka Trump's products](#); In a related note, *The Hill* reports that President Trump believed the press office's statement was unfair to Conway. [Report: Trump upset at Spicer for saying Conway was 'counseled'](#) And *Politico* reports that, in an interview with *Fox News*, Conway offered that the President fully supports her. [Conway says Trump backs her '100 percent' in Ivanka flap](#)

Multiple outlets also discuss the strain on OGE's website that coincided with the above-referenced episode. [Office of Government Ethics website breaks after Conway promotes Ivanka's brand](#) [Kellyanne Conway's Plug for Ivanka's Fashion Line Draws Fire, Crashes Ethics Office Website](#) [Government Ethics Office Website Crashes Under Too Much Traffic — Again](#) [US Government Ethics site crashes as Trump's Counselor breaks federal ethics law on national TV](#)

TPM reports that the ranking member of the House government oversight committee sent the committee chairman a letter requesting that the committee refer to OGE the matter of recent endorsement statements made on national television by Kellyanne Conway, Counselor to President Trump. [Cummings Asks Chaffetz To Look Into Conway Plugging Ivanka Trump's Line](#) [Cummings Asks Chaffetz to Refer Top Trump Aide for Potential Disciplinary Action](#) Read the letter [here](#). Multiple outlets report that the committee chairman and ranking member sent to OGE's director a letter requesting that OGE review the matter and, in light of the additional challenge raised by the conflict of interest for the President, recommend to the White House appropriate disciplinary action. [Top oversight lawmakers ask ethics office to recommend discipline for Conway](#) [Chaffetz, Cummings: Kellyanne Conway Appeared to Violate Ethics Law](#) [Chaffetz, Cummings Ask OGE To Review Conway's Possible Ethics Violations](#) Read the letter [here](#)

Multiple outlets discuss President Trump's possible conflicts of interest. [White House leans into Trump Inc. Saudis foot tab at Trump hotel](#) [Oversight lawmakers continuing push for more information on GSA lease and Trump hotel](#) [Deutsche Bank Remains Trump's Biggest Conflict](#)

[of Interest Despite Settlements Japanese PM's Golf Trip To Trump Resort Hits Ethical Sand Trap](#) [The Ethics Of Trump Hosting Japan's Shinzo Abe At Mar-A-Lago](#) [Trump And His Lackeys Land In Biggest Ethics Quagmire Yet With Nordstrom Dustup](#)

The Hill reports that an Emerson College poll of 617 registered voters shows that the Trump Administration enjoys greater trust ratings than the news media. The poll was conducted February 5-6. [Trump administration seen as more truthful than news media: poll](#)

Multiple outlets report on the confirmation status of nominees. [Senate confirms Obamacare opponent Price to lead health department](#) [Tom Price Becomes Leader of Crusade to Roll Back Obamacare](#) [Polarizing HHS nominee confirmed by Senate on party-line vote](#) [Trump's Treasury pick clears procedural Senate vote](#)

Politico reports that Chuck Cooper is withdrawing his name from consideration as the next solicitor general. According to the article, there were only two names on the short list and Cooper's withdrawal would open the door for the remaining finalist, George Conway – spouse of Kellyanne Conway. [Cooper withdraws from solicitor general consideration](#)

Federal News Radio reports that the EPA has issued its employees a reminder on the ethics rules, especially in the context of making public statements and expressing themselves on social media. [EPA reminds employees: Ethics policies haven't changed](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Government Executive discusses civil service reform efforts. [Chaffetz Discusses Civil Service and Benefits Reforms With Trump at White House](#) [Senate Overseer Promises Reforms to Federal Pay, Performance Management and Discipline](#)

Hearing of Interest

Judicial Transparency and Ethics

House Judiciary — Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet

Subcommittee Hearing

Feb. 14, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn Bldg.

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, February 13, 2017
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:56:48 AM

The Senate reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

The Senate reconvenes at noon and is expected to resume consideration of the nomination of Steven Mnuchin to be secretary of the Treasury. Roll call votes are expected at 7 p.m. on the Mnuchin nomination and on the nomination of David Shulkin to be secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The House reconvenes at 2:00 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Roll Call discusses the absence of a current director of the Office of Management and Budget and its effect on the budget. [It's Huge: Trump Administration Sets Record with Empty OMB Director Slot](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

CNN Money cites the Office of Government Ethics in reporting the number of federal workers accused of violating government ethics rules in 2015 and the disciplinary actions they faced. [Here's what happens when you violate government ethics rules](#)

Multiple outlets discuss President Trump's alleged conflicts of interest. [How Kellyanne Conway is in hot water over Ivanka brand promotion \(The Christian Science Monitor\)](#); [The Week Of Blurred Lines Between President Trump And Businessman Trump \(NPR\)](#); [Trump's south Florida estate raises ethics questions \(Yahoo\)](#); [Deutsche Bank remains Trump's biggest conflict of interest \(The CT Mirror\)](#); [Trump's 'Winter White House' raises more conflict of interest accusations \(WION\)](#); [Report: Firm lobbying for Saudi Arabia paid guest's bill at Trump hotel \(AOL\)](#)

A. V. Club reports that President Trump's counselor was "'counseled' by the Office of Government Ethics" for telling taxpayers to buy a line of products. [Kmart and Sears don't want to be associated with Ivanka Trump, either](#)

International Business Times reports that President Donald Trump's nominee to head the U.S. Department of Labor personally owed millions of dollars to a convicted bank that is relying on the same department to waive sanctions for its crimes. [Donald Trump's Labor Secretary Pick Andrew Puzder Owed Millions To UBS As Bank Seeks Waiver From Sanctions](#)

The Week opines that the White House's recent executive order extending the lobbying ban on executive branch officials is unlikely to stem the lobbying "revival" predicted by a leading lobbyist. [Why President Trump is a godsend for lobbyists](#)

Propublica discusses the new ethics pledge and how a former lobbyist was able to take a job in the government as a result of President Donald Trump's revision of ethics rules in place during the Obama administration. The article notes that the pledge cites a part of the U.S. Code that does not exist. [Trump's Watered-Down Ethics Rules Let a Lobbyist Help Run an Agency He Lobbied](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Government Executive reports that the White House has started rolling out reform ideas in the areas of federal pay and moving current government functions to the private sector. The article notes that a review of federal employees' compensation will not focus on one area or agency, but instead "at how government as a whole operates." [White House Floats Federal Employee Pay Reform, Privatization in Name of Innovation](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

From: Brandon A. Steele
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Cc: [News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, February 14, 2017
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:00:35 PM

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and was expected to consider the nomination of Linda E. McMahon to be administrator of the Small Business Administration. A vote on the nomination was expected at approximately 11 a.m.

The House reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvened at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 428) that would require the Bureau of Land Management to pay for a private survey along the Red River separating Texas and Oklahoma.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets discuss OGE's response to Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings. [Ethics office: White House should investigate Conway for Ivanka Trump plug](#) [Ethics office calls on White House to discipline Conway](#) [Office of Government Ethics recommends the White House investigate Kellyanne Conway](#) [Ethics Office Tells White House to Investigate and Discipline Kellyanne Conway](#) [U.S. Ethics Office Calls on White House to Investigate Kellyanne Conway's Ivanka Trump Endorsement](#) [Ethics office tells White House to investigate Conway for Ivanka plug](#) [US Office of Government Ethics recommends investigation, possible discipline of Kellyanne Conway](#) [White House Should Probe Conway's Nordstrom Comments: U.S. Ethics Office](#) [Government Watchdog Presses Jason Chaffetz To Investigate Kellyanne Conway Himself](#) [The Office of Government Ethics wants Kellyanne Conway to be disciplined](#)

Multiple outlets discuss President Trump's alleged conflicts of interest. [Trump doesn't take kindly to limits on his power and conflicts of interest](#) [THE UTTERLY INSUFFICIENT EFFORTS TO SEPARATE TRUMP FROM HIS BUSINESSES](#) [TRUMP'S SONS INSIST "PAPA BEAR" IS CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST PROOF](#) [Donald Trump faces more conflict of interest questions after China trademark win](#)

Outlets report on various aspects of the transition. [McConnell Lines Up Slew of Cabinet Nominee](#) [Votes Treasury Secretary Confirmed Despite Outrage From Democrats](#) [Labor Dept. employees urge vote against Puzder nomination](#) [Secret Service director retiring, led agency amid turmoil](#) [Senate confirms Trump's picks for Treasury, VA secretaries](#)

POGO recommends that OGE be allowed more authority in order to be more effective. [Unmuzzle the Ethics Watchdog](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Fed Smith reports on additional guidance issued by OPM on the hiring freeze. [OPM Releases Additional Hiring Freeze Guidance](#)

Government Executive opines that without an OMB Director agencies may face budget uncertainty as the CR expires in April. [Agencies Could See Deeper, Faster Cuts Than Previously Contemplated](#) *Government Executive* discusses the efforts to sunset the Election Assistance Commission. [The Federal Voting Agency Republicans Want to Kill](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

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From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:54:52 PM

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and is expected to resume consideration of a joint resolution (H J Res 40) that would disapprove of and nullify a rule that adds certain Social Security recipients with mental impairments who use a "representative payee" because they cannot manage their benefit payments to a list of people prohibited from purchasing firearms. Votes are expected starting at approximately 10:30 a.m. on passage of the joint resolution and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., to be director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The House reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvened at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a resolution (H J Res 42) that would disapprove of the Labor Department rule that limits the ability of states to require drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, a resolution (H J Res 66) that would disapprove of the Labor Department rule exempting certain state-administered savings programs for nongovernmental employees from ERISA requirements, and a resolution (H J Res 67) that would disapprove of the Labor Department rule exempting the savings programs of certain political subdivisions of states from ERISA requirements.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

More outlets report on OGE's response to Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings regarding Kellyanne Conway. [OGE recommends White House investigate Trump adviser for ethics violation \(Federal News Radio\)](#); [Ethics Office Asks White House to Probe Kellyanne Conway \(Roll Call\)](#); [Office of Government Ethics: 'Strong Reason' to Think Conway Violated Rules \(NBC News\)](#); [One afternoon, 3 investigations? The Trump White House's ominous day \(WP "The Fix"\)](#); [Conway Should Be Investigated For Plugging Ivanka Trump Products, Ethics Agency Says \(NPR\)](#); [Office of Government Ethics: Discipline Kellyanne Conway \(CBS News\)](#); [Ethics Office Pressures White House to Discipline Kellyanne Conway \(GovExec\)](#); [Office of Government Ethics asks White House to investigate Kellyanne Conway \(ABC News\)](#); [Government Ethics Watchdog Urges Trump to Investigate Conway and Consider Disciplining Her \(Mother Jones\)](#); [Ethics office recommends White House investigate and possibly discipline Kellyanne Conway \(LA Times\)](#); [Ethics Office Calls for White House Probe Into Kellyanne Conway's Ivanka Trump Remarks \(WSJ "Washington Wire"\)](#); [Ethics Office to White House: Punish Kellyanne Conway for Ivanka "Commercial" \(Slate\)](#); [White House Counsel Donald McGahn under scrutiny for Trump ethics problems \(NY Daily News\)](#); [Ethics office urges White House to consider punishing Conway for Ivanka Trump comments \(CNBC\)](#)
PolitiFact reports on statements made by Senator Schumer about Rex Tillerson, citing Director Shaub's comments about Tillerson's ethics agreement. [PolitiFact: Did top Democrat miss the news on Tillerson?](#)

The Daily Caller reports that former acting Federal Transit Administration (FTA) chief Carolyn Flowers may have violated federal conflict-of-interest laws. [Obama-Era Appointee Likely Breached Ethics Laws With \\$650 Million Grant](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Radio reports on the President's budget request. [Erik Wasson: February budget deadline missed. What's next?](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide](#); [News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, February 16, 2017
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 10:21:47 AM

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and resumes consideration of the nomination of Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., to be director of the Office of Management and Budget. Votes are expected to start at approximately 10:30 a.m. on the Mulvaney nomination and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Pruitt to be EPA administrator.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a resolution (H J Res 69) that would disapprove of the Interior Department rule prohibiting certain predator control practices conducted in national wildlife refuges in Alaska and a resolution (H J Res 43) that would disapprove of the Health and Human Services Department rule that amends eligibility requirements for Title X project grants for family planning services and prevents states from restricting participation by certain providers.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Politico reports on Rep. Chaffetz's oversight activity. [Will top cop Chaffetz actually police Trump?](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Washington Post reports that OGE has called on the White House to discipline Kellyanne Conway. [Chaffetz, Office of Government Ethics call on White House to discipline Kellyanne Conway](#)

Fiercehealthcare.com reports that the President's choice to head CMS, Seema Verma faces ethics questions around her consulting activities. [Trump's CMS pick, Seema Verma, faces ethics questions](#)

Multiple sources report on the situation regarding Russia. [Former Bush ethics lawyer: Trump's Russia scandal is far worse than Watergate](#) [Donald Trump's Russia Scandal Grows As Ethics Watchdog Calls For Kellyanne Conway Investigation](#)

Multiple sources report on the President's conflicts of interest. [Trump doesn't take kindly to power, conflicts of interest limits Trump Organization to launch Dubai golf course](#) [China awards Donald Trump valuable new trademark](#) [Why Hasn't the Government Gone After Trump for His \\$180 Million Breach of Contract?](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

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From: [Jim Robertson](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, February 17, 2017
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 11:05:28 AM

The Senate remains in session from the legislative day that began on Feb. 16, 2017.

According to *CQ*, votes are expected at 1:00 p.m. on the nomination of Scott Pruitt to be administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and on cloture on the nomination of Wilbur Ross to be secretary of Commerce.

The House meets in a pro forma session.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Politico and *The Hill* report that President Trump announced his new nominee for Labor Secretary. [Trump names Alexander Acosta as labor secretary nominee Trump unveils new pick to head Labor Department](#)

The Washington Examiner reports that some in Congress, citing issues of public trust and potential conflicts of interest for President Trump, have proposed legislation that would create an office of inspector general for the White House. [Democrats demand creation of White House inspector general](#)

Roll Call reports that Senate Democrats plan to stage a series of overnight speeches on the Senate floor that will highlight, in part, the EPA nominee's alleged conflicts of interest. [Senate Democrats Plan All-Nighter Over EPA Nominee](#)

Government Executive reports that the Senate on Thursday approved President Trump's candidate to lead the Office of Management and Budget. [Senate Clears Proponent of Workforce Cuts as Trump's Budget Director](#)

The Hill and *Townhall* report that House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte have requested that Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz launch an internal investigation into the recent unauthorized release of classified information regarding former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn. [House Oversight Chairman Asks DOJ Inspector General to Investigate Flynn Leaks Chaffetz asks DOJ inspector general to investigate Flynn leaks](#)

CNN reports that DOJ is charging a Navy commander with bribery for his role in the "Fat Leonard" scandal. [Navy commander charged in long-running scandal](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

From: Brandon A. Steele
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Cc: [News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:59:25 AM

The Senate and House are not in session.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets discuss President Trump's alleged conflicts of interest. [Trump said he would isolate his family businesses, but they have already seeped into the White House](#) [Where Are We With President Trump's Promises On Ethics?](#) NPR has created a team devoted to covering [President Trump's conflicts of interest](#) [Foreign Policy and Trump's Conflicts of Interest](#) [This week in Donald Trump's conflicts of interest: What a simple trademark can do to a president's foreign policy](#) [Kushner took more strict approach on ethics than Trump, report says](#) [Trump May Not Have Divested From Businesses, but Kushner Did](#) [Leaked Trump tape: 'You are the special people'](#) [The new global plutocracy](#)

Bloomberg reports that "Donald Trump is trailing behind other recent presidents in getting his cabinet confirmed by the Senate." [The U.S. Has Too Many Political Appointees](#)

Politico reports that PAS nominees have voiced concern that "the White House isn't doing enough to protect them from grueling confirmations." [Trump's nominees gripe the White House isn't protecting them](#)

Politico discusses the White House Counsel. ['He's Going to Be an Enabler'](#)

Slate discusses the revolving door. [Confessions of a Washington Swamp Creature](#)

POGO discusses the ethics EO. [POGO Video: Explaining the Foreign Lobbying Revolving Door](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Multiple outlets discuss efforts to eliminate various federal agencies. [White House prepping government reorg executive order](#) [Trump's first budget would end program to help low-income Americans get lawyers](#) [Legislation Would Abolish the IRS](#) [Federal employee bill tracker: How pending legislation could affect your bottom line](#) [Republican bills to kill federal agencies face uphill battle](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

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From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:29:42 AM

The Senate is not in session.

No votes are expected in the House.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Roll Call reports that President Donald Trump's administration is aiming to release a fiscal 2018 budget outline on March 14. [Trump Intends to Release 2018 Budget in Mid-March](#) In a related podcast, *Roll Call* reports that the president's new budget director faces challenges, including an April deadline when government funding expires and the unknown costs of efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare. [Ep. 5: Why Trump's New Budget Director Should Prepare for a Fight](#) *The Hill* provides helpful guides to the Senate and House committees. [A guide to the committees: Senate](#); [A guide to the committees: House](#)

KSL.com reports that Rep. Jason Chaffetz said that he has already taken on the Trump administration on four issues, one of which is the referral of the White House counselor to the Office of Government Ethics for promoting products. [Chaffetz says he's already taken on Trump administration](#) *VOA News* also mentions the referral to the Office of Government Ethics. [Just One Month In, US President, Aides Face Multiple Investigations](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Vox reports that there are 549 key positions in President Donald Trump's administration that require Senate confirmation and that the president has not nominated anyone to 515 of them. [549 key positions in the administration need Senate confirmation. So far, Trump has filled 14.](#)

Free Beacon and *KTVZ* report that a government watchdog group is calling for an investigation into whether a Federal Election Commission official violated federal ethics laws when she used government property and official time to call on President Trump to produce evidence of voter fraud. [Government Watchdog Group Calls For Investigation Into Democratic FEC Official](#); [FEC member repeats demand Trump prove voter fraud](#)

Lawfare opines on the proper role of the White House Counsel and states that one of the roles is a "special responsibility for legal and ethics compliance within the West Wing." [Thoughts on the Proper Role of the White House Counsel](#)

Daily News reports that amid criticism from ethics experts, an amended complaint by Melania Trump against a website has removed references to opportunities resulting from her husband's presidency. [Melania Trump removes apparent profit intentions from 'sex business' lawsuit against Daily Mail](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24

Senate: February 20-24

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, February 24, 2017
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 1:10:12 PM

The Senate is not in session.

The House meets in a pro forma session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

MSNBC comments on Chairman Chaffetz's oversight of the Trump administration. [When investigating, Chaffetz has an odd definition of 'serious'](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple sources report on the President's alleged conflicts of interest. [Letter: Trump tone deaf on ethics Trump's Company Is Hiring an Ethics Adviser. Should Yours? White House: Melania isn't in business; so why are her companies active? Trump's Get-Rich-Quick Presidency Trump gets a free ride on conflicts of interest What America has to say about Donald Trump's ethics](#)

Bloomberg Law reports that a lobbyist for Anthem is among the top contenders for the top antitrust job in the U.S. [Anthem Lobbyist Among Contenders for Top Antitrust Job in U.S.](#)

Yahoo Finance explains that Director of the National Economic Council, Gary Cohn, did not pay \$200 million in taxes to take the job as the President said in his remarks recently. The article mentions OGE's Certificate of Divestiture. [No, Gary Cohn did not pay \\$200 million in taxes to work for Trump](#)

The Washington Post and The Week report that a group of law professors have filed a professional misconduct complaint against Kellyanne Conway with the D.C. bar. [Law professors file misconduct complaint against Kellyanne Conway A group of legal ethics professors are pushing to have Kellyanne Conway disbarred](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: February 20-24; March 3

Senate: February 20-24; March 16-17

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

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From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, February 27, 2017
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:35:04 AM

The Senate reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvenes at noon and is expected to resume consideration of the nomination of Wilbur L. Ross Jr. to be Commerce secretary and votes are expected at 7 p.m. on the Ross nomination and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Rep. Ryan Zinke to be Interior secretary.

The House reconvenes at 2:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill reports on the Senate resuming work on confirming President Trump's Cabinet nominees.

[Week ahead: Confirmation votes lined up for Energy, Interior picks](#)

Harvard Business Review discusses the potential conflicts of interest resulting from the investments of members of Congress. [The Growing Conflict-of-Interest Problem in the U.S. Congress](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

NPR reports that while the Office of Government Ethics has been shaping the holdings of President Trump's appointees, it has so far had no real impact on Trump himself since federal conflict-of-interest laws technically do not apply to the president and vice president, although previous holders of those positions have voluntarily observed the rules. [Ethics Watchdog Has Big Impact On Federal Workers, But Not On Trump](#)

U.S. News & World Report reports that the Kuwaiti government could pay up to \$60,000 to President Donald Trump's hotel in Washington for an upcoming party that will be an early test of Trump's promise to turn over profits from such events to the U.S. Treasury. [Kuwait Could Pay up to \\$60,000 for Party at Trump Hotel in Washington](#) A related *NPR* article reports that any time a foreign government holds a reception or rents rooms at a Trump hotel, it opens up speculation about conflicts of interest. [Kuwait Celebration At Trump Hotel Raises Conflict Of Interest Questions](#)

Politico reports that more than two dozen lawyers working inside and outside government are tasked with policing Donald Trump's potential conflicts of interest, but no one individual has visibility into the full picture and that means that in some cases the lawyers are overlapping while other areas of potential conflict go uncovered entirely. [Who's watching Trump's ethics watchdogs?](#)

Lobelog discusses President Trump's alleged conflicts of interest. [Foreign Policy and Trump's Conflicts of Interest;](#)

Care2 opines that although President Trump's executive order places a five-year ban on members of the executive branch from becoming lobbyists after leaving their positions and a permanent ban on lobbying on behalf of foreign entities, putting no restrictions on lobbyists getting positions at the White House leaves a clear path for lobbyists to influence governmental decisions. [Trump Changes His Mind: Bring on the Lobbyists](#)

MarketWatch discusses the alleged conflicts of interest of members of President Trump's Cabinet. [Opinion: Why trusts aren't reducing the conflicts in Trump's cabinet](#) Other sources discuss potential conflicts of specific nominees or members of the administration. [Trump's Billionaire Pick For Commerce, Oceans Chief Is Keeping His Oil Tankers - OPB](#); [Gary Cohn to recuse himself from Goldman Sachs matters - Crain's](#); [Trump's Top Energy Aid: Former Koch Lobbyist, Peddled Climate Denial for Decades - Ecowatch](#); [Last of Trump Nominees With Russian Ties Set to Sail Through Confirmation - Roll Call](#); [With electricity out, new EPA chief reached out to lobbyist - ABC News](#); [Emails allegedly show new EPA chief, former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt had cozy ties with fuel industry - The Altus Times](#); [Jared Kushner to distance himself from policy discussions - HeraldNet](#); [White House power player Jared Kushner is keeping parts of his real estate empire - The Real Deal](#)

Multiple outlets report that President Donald Trump's nominee for Navy secretary, Philip Bilden,

withdrew from consideration stating in a letter that he was not “able to satisfy the Office of Government Ethics requirements without undue disruption and materially adverse divestment of my family’s private financial interests.” [Navy secretary nominee withdraws - The Hill](#); [Nominee for Navy Secretary withdraws - Politico](#); [Trump’s Pick for Navy Secretary Withdraws Over Ethics Rules, Finances - NBC News](#); [Philip Bilden withdraws from Navy secretary consideration - Navy Times](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that current circumstances could set up an unprecedented budgetary climate for agencies. [Expect the unexpected with upcoming budget, appropriations cycle, experts say Politico](#) reports that the White House is expected to send its preliminary funding targets for 2018 to federal agencies today with increases in spending on defense, homeland security, intelligence, the Department of Justice and law enforcement and “dollar for dollar cuts” elsewhere. [Trump wants to raise military spending — but cut everywhere else](#)

Government Executive reports that President Trump signed an executive order creating new task forces at every federal agency that will identify regulations for elimination or modification. [New Trump Order Will Create Agency Task Forces to Eliminate Regulations](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 3-6

Senate: March 16-17

Nonresponsive record

From: Bud Cummins [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Emory A. Rounds III
Subject: info

Emory,

Last Fall I worked on the Presidential Transition Team and part of my duties were on the legal team under Bill Palatucci. You came over either right before or right after the election and talked to several of us in Bill Palatucci's office regarding various ethics issues.

Transition is over and I have stayed OUT of government, at least for now, so I no longer hold any position in the Trump administration. But I have been helping to identify several individuals for service in the administration in upper levels. Some of them are wealthy, and hold positions on public boards, etc. They have many questions. (Will I have to resign from my boards? Do I have to divest my assets? Blind trust?). I have vague answers, but not specific ones. At least one of them wants to understand the ethics rules before he wastes anyone's time within the administration discussing an appointment.

So, I write you today, to ask you two questions:

1. Can you point me to one or more publications that provide an overall explanation about issues faced by prospective appointees regarding conflicts and their personal finances? Is this website the best starting point?
<https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Financial%20Conflicts%20of%20Interest/E07A0C541EF92CF385257E96006364E1?opendocument>
2. Is there a government point of contact (a human) that one of these persons could consult even before they have been interviewed for an appointment, to discuss such issues?

All help appreciated,

Best regards,

Bud

Bud Cummins

Law Offices of Bud Cummins PLC

1818 North Taylor, Suite 301

Little Rock, AR 72207

(b) (6)

www.budcumminslaw.com

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Nonresponsive record

From: Teresa L. Williamson [mailto:tlwillia@oge.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 8:55 AM

To: Patrick J. Lightfoot ; (B)(6) Cynthia Shaw Email Address(B)(6) Janice Rodgers Email Address

Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Rachel L. Brand

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Rachel L. Brand, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson

Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

202-482-9283

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Nonresponsive record

From: Leon Neyfakh [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: question from a Slate reporter

Dear Mr. Jaffe,

My name is Leon and I'm a reporter at Slate.com. I have a question for you related to the [letter submitted to OGE yesterday](#) by the WH Counsel's Office. The letter indicated that it is the WH Counsel's judgment that Kellyanne Conway had acted inadvertently and without nefarious motive when she advertised Ivanka Trump's clothing line on TV. I am trying to understand whether this judgment means the inquiry is now closed, or whether OGE is in charge of making the decision of what actions should be taken in connection with the case. Basically, I want to know whether the WH Counsel's letter should be seen as merely a recommendation or not, and if so, what the next step at OGE will be.

I'd be grateful for a call back at your earliest convenience, as I'd like to explain how this kind of thing works to Slate readers today and am on deadline. My number is (b) (6).

Best,
Leon

From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#); [News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Date: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 3:58:39 PM

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

According to CQ, the Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and resumed consideration of the nomination of Rep. Ryan Zinke. Rep. Zinke was confirmed.

The House reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

According to CQ, the House reconvened at noon for legislative business and is expected to complete consideration of a bill (HR 998) that would establish a commission to review existing regulations for repeal. The chamber will also consider a bill (HR 1009) that would require major rulemaking actions to be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA).

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets report on the White House's response to OGE's letter regarding Kellyanne Conway. *CNN Money* published a copy of the letter itself. [CNN Money](#); [The Hill](#); [Politico](#); [Time](#); [ABC News](#); [NY Daily News](#); [NPR](#); [Reuters](#); [GovExec](#)

Bloomberg reports that the House Judiciary Committee defeated a Democratic effort Tuesday to obtain information from Justice on "possible conflicts, ethical violations or improper connections to Russia by President Donald Trump and his associates." [GOP Blocks Democratic Gambit to Obtain DOJ File on Trump Ethics](#)

Bloomberg reports on allegations that Special Adviser to the President Carl Icahn had a conflict of interest when he helped broker a proposal to alter U.S. biofuels policy. [Icahn's \\$126 Million Gain on Biofuel Deal Prompts Criticism](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that the White House is preparing a new executive order that includes a series of requirements for agencies to quickly turn around plans to improve how they meet their missions. [White House prepping government reorg executive order](#)

Government Executive reports on the possible impact of the President's planned budget cuts. [Trump's Budget Cuts Could Lead to Federal Employee Layoffs, Furloughs](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 3-6

Senate: March 16-17

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, March 2, 2017
Date: Thursday, March 02, 2017 11:42:14 AM

The Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m. and is expected to resume consideration of the nomination of Benjamin S. Carson Sr. to be secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Votes are expected to begin at approximately 10 a.m. on the Carson nomination and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Richard Perry to be Energy secretary.

The House reconvened at 9:00 am.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 1004) that would require every federal department and agency to maintain an online searchable list of the regulatory actions being taken.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Phys.org reports that a study shows there may be a problem with conflicts of interest in Congress. [Study shows expanding conflict-of-interest problem in congress](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple news outlets report on the White House's response to Kellyanne Conway's comments. [White House dismisses concerns about Kellyanne Conway flagged by the Office of Government Ethics](#) [White House Says Kellyanne Conway Won't Be Disciplined for Ivanka Infomercial](#) [The White House asserts Kellyanne Conway 'inadvertently' plugged Ivanka Trump's products](#) [White House rebuffs ethics office recommendation to discipline Kellyanne Conway](#) [Conway Won't Face Discipline for Promoting Ivanka Brand](#) [OF COURSE THE WHITE HOUSE ISN'T DISCIPLINING KELLYANNE CONWAY](#) [White House won't investigate Conway for comments in support of Ivanka Trump](#) [White House Says Kellyanne Conway Acted "Without Nefarious Motive" When She Told Us to "Go Buy Ivanka's Stuff"](#) [WH clears Kellyanne Conway for "inadvertently" promoting Ivanka Trump brand](#) [No penalties for Kellyanne Conway for plugging Ivanka Trump's line from the White House](#) [White House clears Conway for touting Ivanka Trump products](#) [White House: Conway plugged Ivanka Trump brand 'inadvertently'](#) [White House claims Conway 'inadvertently' endorsed Ivanka Trump's fashion line](#) [White House Says Kellyanne Conway Acted 'Without Nefarious Motive' in Ivanka Trump Endorsement](#) [Kellyanne Conway 'inadvertently' talked up Ivanka Trump's products, White House lawyer says](#)

Politico, *the Week*, and *the Hill* report that the Trump transition team called off a planned ethics course for White House staff. [Trump's team nixed ethics course for White House staff](#) [Trump's team reportedly opted out of an ethics course](#) [Trump transition team canceled plan for ethics training for staff: report](#)

Politico reports on President Trump's remarks on lobbying. [What Trump said about lobbying last night](#)

The Washington Examiner reports that "President Trump's Labor Department will delay the implementation of a rule cracking down on conflicts of interest in retirement investing, the first step in reversing one of President Obama's late-term priorities." [Trump's Labor Department to delay conflict-of-interest rule by 60 days](#)

Vanity Fair addresses President Trump's alleged conflicts of interest. [IS THE WHITE HOUSE NOW JUST ANOTHER TRUMP INC. SUBSIDIARY?](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 3-6

Senate: March 16-17

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

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From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide; News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, March 3, 2017
Date: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:22:02 AM

The Senate is not in session.

The House is not in session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Politifact reports that Senator Rand Paul has said repealing 3 regulations has saved hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs. [Rand Paul said repealing 3 regulations saves millions of dollars, thousands of jobs](#)

The Ring of Fire Network reports that Senator Richard Burr has an alleged conflict of interest. [Senator Richard Burr's Conflict of Interest: How a Trump Sycophant is Destroying the Intelligence Committee](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Politico reports that the President's advisors are telling him to purge the administration of Obama appointees due to recent leaks, which they are attributing to the Obama appointees. [Trump's advisers push him to purge Obama appointees](#)

AgWeb reports on the influence Carl Icahn is having as an advisor to President Trump. [Icahn Lobbying Trump Sparks Civil War in U.S. Ethanol Sector](#)

Stat reports that a lobbyist for one of the nation's largest healthcare practices was named Chief of Staff to Secretary Tom Price. [Price's new chief of staff comes from health care lobbying firm](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 3-6

Senate: March 16-17

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

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From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, March 6, 2017
Date: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:38:42 AM

The Senate reconvenes at 2 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvenes at 2 p.m. and is expected to consider disapproval resolutions to nullify agency rules pertaining to federal contracts and resource management plans for public lands.

The House is not in session.

According to *CQ*, the House meets in a pro forma session.

Legislative and Related News

The Hill reports that the House is likely to pass a defense spending bill for the remainder of fiscal 2017 in the coming week, a first step toward funding the government beyond the April 28 expiration of last year's continuing resolution. According to the article, funding the rest of the government will be harder because of the "bipartisan backlash" against the President's proposed budget cuts to non-military spending. [Week ahead: Budget fight heats up | House takes up defense spending](#); see also [Trump Is Headed for a Budget Battle \(GovExec\)](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

NPR reports on criticism of the White House's response to OGE last week, specifically with regard to the assertion that "many regulations promulgated by the Office of Government Ethics ("OGE") do not apply to employees of the Executive Office of the President." [Experts Say White House's Conway Response Raises Major Ethical Questions](#)

ProPublica reports that the Trump administration "appears to be either ignoring or exempting top staffers" from its own ethics rules. The article reports that the administration added three new hires last week who are working on issues on which they lobbied while in the private sector. [How the Trump Administration May Be Skirting Its Own Ethics Rules](#)

NPR reports that, compared with the Obama administration, "the Trump White House has been much slower to submit its nominees' financial arrangements for review" by OGE. The report was based on statistical information obtained from OGE under the FOIA. [Trump Nominees' Financial Reports Slow To Arrive For Ethics Review, Document Shows](#)

The Atlantic reports on the potential conflicts of interest involved in the recent sale of a penthouse in Trump Tower to a business executive whose firm "helps businesses curry favor with the Chinese government." [Trump's Interests vs. America's, Trump Tower Penthouse Edition](#)

The Hill and *The Wall Street Journal* report that OGE has "cleared" President Trump's nominee to head the SEC, Jay Clayton. [Ethics office clears Trump's pick for SEC: report \(The Hill\)](#); [Trump's Pick for SEC Chairman Clears Ethics Hurdle \(WSJ, Friday's paper\)](#)

Blasting News reports that OGE has "targeted" Heather Wilson, nominee for Secretary of the Air Force. [U.S. Office of Government Ethics targets Trump pick Heather Wilson](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 3-6, 24

Senate: March 16-17

Nonresponsive record

From: Jim Robertson [mailto:jfrobert@oge.gov]

Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:05 PM

To: Herr, Ellen (OST)

Cc: Smith, Michael A (OST)

Subject: RE: FW: (b)(6) Ethics Agreement

Hi Ellen,

Just wanted to follow up with a couple of things:

1. Part 6, line 207 –

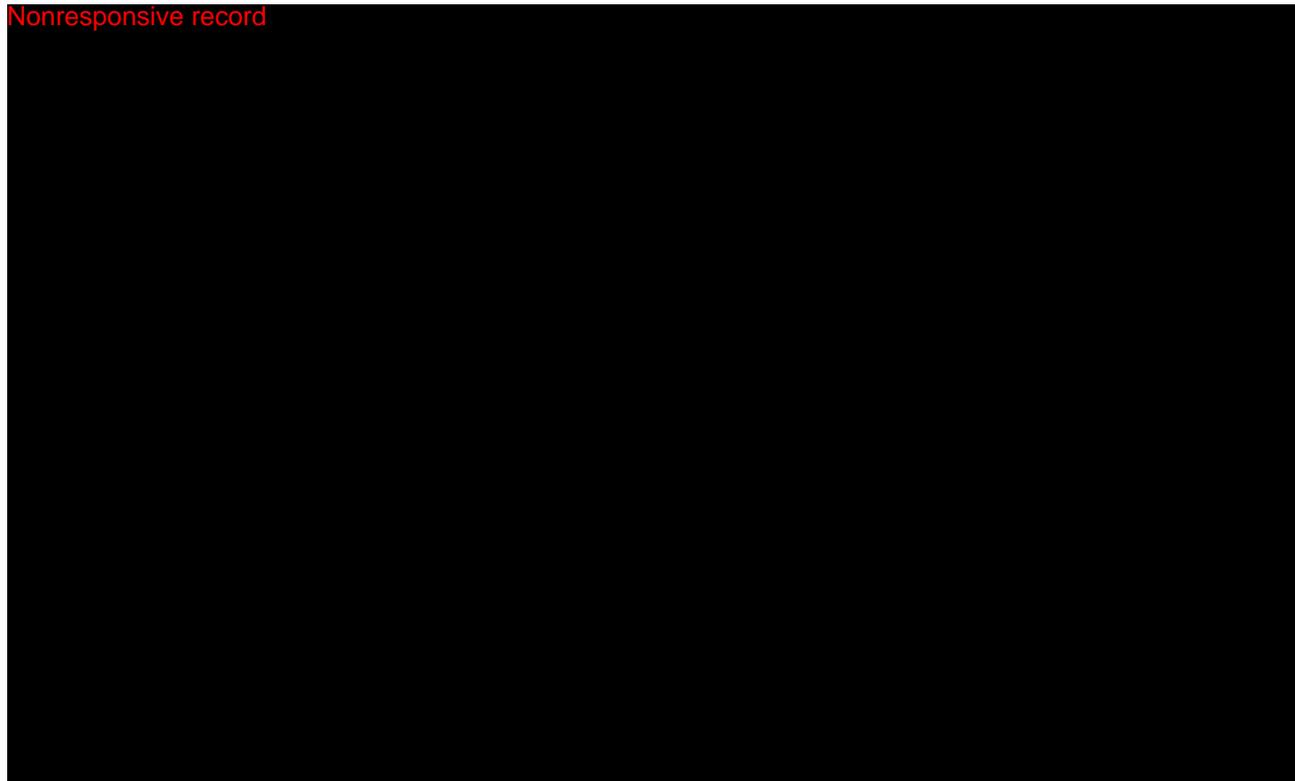
(b)(3), (5), (6)

2. Paragraph re meeting in the first week: (b)(3), (5), (6)

3. (b)(3), (5), (6)

Thanks,
Jim

Nonresponsive record



From: Kimberley H. Kaplan
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 8:59 AM
To: Monica M. G. Ashar; Rachel K. Dowell; Leigh J. Francis
Subject: Ethics Pledge question - does this person sign?

I added a question to AIMS that is (b) (5) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Thanks!
Kim

Nonresponsive records

From: Teresa L. Williamson [<mailto:twillia@oge.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 8:14 AM

To: Jim Robertson; Sadler, Rob - SOL

Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Rene Alexander Acosta

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Rene Alexander Acosta, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Secretary, Department of Labor.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson

Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

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From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 11:36:51 AM

The Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m. and is expected to resume consideration of a joint resolution (H J Res 58) that would disapprove of and nullify an Education Department rule related to evaluation of teacher preparation programs.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. The chamber will also consider a bill (HR 1301) providing full-year appropriations for the Defense Department for Fiscal 2017.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill reports that Sen. James Lankford will introduce a package of regulatory reform bills saying in a statement that “the federal rulemaking process needs to be improved with greater transparency and accountability.” [Top Republican pushing reg reform bills](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Roll Call reports on the slow pace of lower-level executive branch nominations being sent to the Capitol. [Senators Ask White House: Where are the Nominees?](#) In another article, *Roll Call* reports on the delayed confirmation of various nominees and mentions some of the nominees’ statuses in the financial disclosure process of the Office of Government Ethics. [Cabinet-Level Nominees Play the Waiting Game](#)

The Daily Beast reports that the White House would not say whether it would continue the practice of releasing the names of White House visitors that ethics groups say are crucial to government transparency and which some say could fuel criticism of President Trump’s alleged financial conflicts of interest. The article also notes that the White House has yet to update pages on its website where it says visitors will be able to find staff salaries and waivers issued to administration officials exempting them from the ethics pledge imposed by a January executive order. [White House Won’t Say If It Will Release Names of Visitors](#)

Bradenton Herald discusses the ethical concerns related to President Trump’s business arrangements including the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. [Trump hotel is the place to be in the nation's capital](#)

The Bond Buyer reports that Puerto Rico Oversight Board Interim Executive Director Ramón Ruiz owns at least \$265,000 in Puerto Rico bonds and debt, in what some observers said may be a violation of federal laws on conflict of interest. [Oversight Board Director Owns at Least \\$265,000 in Puerto Rico Bonds](#)

International Business Times reports that President Donald Trump may have created a conflict of interest with the signing of his executive order calling for the review of the Clean Water Rule since it could directly benefit his many golf courses. [Trump Conflicts Of Interest: Clean Water Rule Executive Order Could Help President’s Golf Courses](#)

AOL reports that experts say that President Trump’s five congratulatory tweets promoting an announcement from the energy giant Exxon Mobil, the company from which his secretary of state came to the administration, entered a “gray area” in terms of ethically acceptable language and promotion from the White House of an individual business. [They ought to be careful’: Trump raises eyebrows with heavy promotion of Exxon announcement](#)

Richmond Confidential reports that Richmond is on the record as the first city in the United States to call for an investigation into whether President Donald Trump’s business dealings are creating a conflict of interest for him in his role of president. [Richmond City Council calls for Trump impeachment probe](#)

Politico and *Reuters* report that a consumer advocacy group is filing a complaint to Congress accusing President Donald Trump’s friend Carl Icahn of violating lobbying rules by pushing the White House to change the federal ethanol regulations. The *Politico* article notes that when President

Trump named Icahn as the White House's special adviser for regulatory reform in December, he said Icahn would "not be serving as a federal employee or a special government employee and will not have any specific duties." [Trump adviser Icahn accused of breaching lobbying rules \(Politico\)](#); [Watchdog to ask U.S. lawmakers to probe Icahn's role with Trump \(Reuters\)](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Government Executive reports that non-defense agencies would collectively see their discretionary spending cut by about 10 percent in fiscal 2018 on top of a restoration of spending limits set by the 2011 Budget Control Act. [What We Know About Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts So Far](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 13

Senate: March 16-17

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, March 9, 2017
Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:29:58 AM

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and is expected to resume consideration of a disapproval resolution (H J Res 57) that would nullify an Education Department rule regarding accountability measures for school performance. The Senate is scheduled to vote on passage of the joint resolution at noon. The chamber will then resume consideration of the nomination of Seema Verma to be administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, with a cloture vote scheduled for 1:45 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 725) that would establish new federal judicial proceedings for determining whether a defendant has been fraudulently joined to a lawsuit and a bill (HR 985) that would group proposed classes of individuals for a class-action lawsuits into groups that have suffered the same type and degree of injury and requires quarterly reports by asbestos trusts of claims.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill reports that a hearing has been set for the President's new Labor nominee. [Hearing set for Trump's Labor nominee](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Bloomberg reports that "one sign of how entrenched the revolving door has become in Washington: Experienced people are forsaking chances to fill key posts in President Donald Trump's administration partly because of his executive order forbidding federal employees from lobbying for five years after leaving government service." [Would-Be Trump Appointees Say 'No Thanks' Due to Lobbying Ban](#)

The Seattle Times reports that Sonny Perdue, the President's agriculture nominee, was frequently questioned about his ethics while governor of Georgia. [Ethics questions dogged agriculture nominee as Georgia governor](#)

NPR and *Lawnewz.com* report that watchdogs are asking the U.S. Attorney to investigate the President's business interests for Emoluments Clause violations. [Ethics Watchdogs Want U.S. Attorney To Investigate Trump's Business Interests](#) [Ethics Groups Call for US Atty to Investigate Trump Org for Emoluments Clause Violations](#)

Multiple sources report on alleged conflicts of interest of SEC nominee Clayton. [SEC Nominee Clayton Earned \\$7.6M at New York Law Firm](#) [SEC Chair Nominee Clayton's Ethics Report Reveals Range of Possible Conflicts](#) [SEC nominee Clayton vows separation from his Wall Street law firm](#) [Trump SEC Pick Made Millions Representing Banks, Hedge Funds](#)

Multiple sources report that former national security advisor Michael Flynn has filed reports with the Justice Department stating that his past lobbying efforts may have helped the government of Turkey. [Flynn Admits Lobbying May Have Helped Turkey](#) [FORMER TRUMP AIDE FLYNN SAYS LOBBYING MAY HAVE HELPED TURKEY](#) [Michael Flynn discloses that his lobbying may have helped the Turkish government](#) [Flynn discloses lobbying that may have helped Turkey](#) [Ex-Trump Aide Flynn Registers as Foreign Agent Over Lobbying](#) [Michael Flynn Discloses His Lobbying Might Have Helped Turkey](#)

Multiple sources report on alleged lobbying rule violations by President Trump's special advisor, Carl Icahn, in relation to federal ethanol regulations and articles question his role. [Trump adviser Icahn accused of breaching lobbying rules](#) [Watchdog: Trump ally Carl Icahn violating lobbying rules](#) [Carl Icahn Is Not Bound By Your Silly Laws](#) [Trump adviser Carl Icahn calls liberal group's ethanol complaint a 'witch hunt'](#) [Government Watchdog Group Presses Lawmakers to Investigate Carl Icahn's Ties to President Trump](#) [Is Trump Adviser Carl Icahn an Illicit Lobbyist or a Corrupt Official?](#) [Icahn dismisses conflict of interest concerns as 'absurd'](#)

Reuters and *Patch.com* report that Democratic lawmakers have written to the White House counsel's

office about Jared Kushner's potential conflicts of interest based on confusion about what holdings he still controls. [Democrats ask White House about Trump son-in-law's potential conflicts](#) [Jared Kushner's Conflicts Of Interest Questioned By Democratic Lawmakers](#)

Multiple sources report on the potential conflict of interest between the President and China. [China grants Trump 38 trademarks, reopening debate about conflicts of interest](#) [China's Trademarks for Trump Create Conflict, Democrats Say](#) [China Moves To Approve At Least 35 Trump Trademarks](#) [China gives greenlight to dozens of Trump trademarks](#) [China swiftly approves nearly 40 new Trump trademarks](#) [Trump's China trademarks raise new ethics questions](#) [China preliminarily approves 38 Trump trademarks, raising ethics concerns](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 13

Senate: March 16-17

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

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From: Annie Leonard [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) \[REDACTED\]](mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED])]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 5:49 PM
To: walter.schaub@oge.gov; McManus, Katherine D
Cc: Huitema, David P; Ethics Attorney Mailbox; ContactOGE@oge.gov
Subject: Secretary Tillerson must recuse himself from the Keystone XL decision

Dear Director Shaub and Ms. McManus,

I am writing today on behalf of Greenpeace Inc. and our more than half a million supporters across the United States. We are calling on the Office of Government Ethics and the State Department Office of the Legal Adviser to urge Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to recuse himself from any decisions to approve or reject TransCanada's application for a Presidential Permit for its proposed Keystone XL pipeline. President Trump has requested that a final decision be made within 60 days of the renewed permit application.

Please find attached a letter describing our arguments for why Secretary Tillerson must recuse himself, and a policy brief detailing how ExxonMobil will directly benefit from the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.

We respect your thorough and thoughtful consideration of this issue and trust you will respond with the urgency required in this short timeline. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Annie Leonard

Executive Director

Greenpeace USA

--

Annie Leonard

If you would like to schedule a call with Annie, please contact Gabrielle Leyden at (b) (6) [REDACTED]

Annie Leonard -- Greenpeace USA, Washington DC

Official

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From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, March 10, 2017
Date: Friday, March 10, 2017 10:38:21 AM

The Senate is not in session.

The House reconvened at 9:00 am.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 720) that would require courts to impose sanctions on parties that violate the prohibition on the filing of frivolous lawsuits.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Talkingpointsmemo.com reports on Rep. Elijah Cummings' letter to the White House regarding the ethics rules that apply to the White House staff. [Cummings Asks White House: Which Ethics Rules Don't Apply To You?](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple sources report on OGE's response to the White House on Kellyanne Conway. [Ethics Office to White House: Conway Needs to Be Disciplined](#) [Ethics watchdog slams White House for not disciplining Conway](#) [The White House defended Kellyanne Conway by saying its employees don't have to follow ethics rules](#) [Ethics office scolds White House for not disciplining Conway](#) [Ethics office decries lack of punishment for Conway over plug for Ivanka](#) [Ethics watchdog's stinging rebuke to White House over Kellyanne's Ivanka endorsement as he says not disciplining her undermines the 'integrity of government](#) [Ethics Office Says Conway Should Have Been Disciplined For Plugging Trump Products](#) [Ethics Chief to White House: Not Punishing Kellyanne Conway Risks Undermining The Entire Ethics Program](#) [Ethics Watchdog Pushes Back on White House View of Rules](#) [Watchdog 'disagrees' with White House decision not to discipline Kellyanne Conway](#) [Ethics Office Fires Back at White House for Not Disciplining Conway](#) [Ethics office rebukes White House over Kellyanne Conway's Ivanka Trump plug](#) [White House Slammed by Federal Ethics Chief for Not Disciplining Kellyanne Conway](#) [Government Ethics Chief Concerned by Trump's Refusal to Discipline Conway](#) [Ethics Watchdog to White House: You're Not Above the Law](#) [Government ethics office 'concerned' over White House decision not to discipline Kellyanne Conway](#) [The government ethics office is unhappy](#) [Kellyanne Conway was let off the hook over her Ivanka Trump pitch](#) [Office of Government Ethics? What for?](#) [U.S. Ethics Official To White House: No, These Rules Definitely Apply To You](#) [Office of Government Ethics still wants to punish Kellyanne Conway for Nordstrom comments](#) [Ethics office remains 'concerned' about Conway's endorsement of Ivanka's business](#)

Multiple sources report on the White House attorneys' response immediately following Kellyanne Conway's remarks. [White House attorney reached out to ethics watchdog amid Conway-Nordstrom fallout: report](#) [Trump's Lawyer Scrambled After Conway Plugged Trump Clothing, Emails Show Revealed: Trump's ethics lawyers panicked when Kellyanne started promoting Ivanka's clothing line on live TV](#) [Ethics office reached out to White House within hours of Trump's Ivanka defense](#)

Multiple sources report on Michael Flynn's Turkey lobbying. [VP Pence: Turkey lobbying 'an affirmation' of decision to fire Flynn](#) [Spicer defends Flynn's past lobbying that may have helped Turkey](#) [Michael Flynn Concealed Foreign Lobbying Work From Justice Department](#) [Trump claims he had no idea Flynn was a foreign lobbyist when he tapped him as top security advisor](#) *Business Insider* reports on possible conflicts of interest for SEC nominee Clayton. [Trump's SEC nominee reveals possible Wall Street conflicts of interest](#)

The Wall Street Journal reports that the President's Labor nominee, Alexander Acosta, has filed financial disclosure and ethics paperwork. [Labor Secretary Nominee Acosta Files Financial Disclosure and Ethics Paperwork](#)

Multiple sources report that the ACLU has filed an ethics complaint with the Alabama Bar against Jeff Sessions. [ACLU files ethics complaint against Sessions with Alabama Bar Disciplinary Commission](#) [ACLU lawyer files ethics complaint against Sessions over Russia testimony: report](#) [ACLU Lawyer Files Ethics Complaint Against Jeff Sessions Over Russia Testimony](#)

Politico reports that Cork Wine Bar, a local restaurant, is suing President Trump's hotel for unfair competition. [Suing Trump on ethics? Good luck making your case](#)
The Economist and *Reuters* discuss the President's alleged conflicts of interest. [Conflict-of-interest allegations may not damage Donald Trump](#) [Trump's disputes with local governments could create fresh conflicts of interest](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 13

Senate: March 16-17

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

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From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [\(b\)\(6\) Stuart Bender Email Address](#); [Kimberly L. Sikora Panza](#); [Monica M. G. Ashar](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of George Ervin Perdue, III
Date: Friday, March 10, 2017 1:46:55 PM
Attachments: [Perdue, George E. finalEA.pdf](#)
[Perdue, George E. final278.pdf](#)
[Perdue, George E. finalsenateltr.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for George Ervin Perdue, III, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson

Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

202-482-9283

From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, March 13, 2017
Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:55:13 AM

The Senate reconvenes at 2:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvenes at 2 p.m. and is expected to resume consideration of the nomination of Seema Verma to be administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A confirmation vote on the nomination is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

The House is not in session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

Roll Call and *Politico* report that some senators are warning of a shutdown showdown if President Donald Trump insists on including funding for a wall along the Mexican border in April's government funding bill. [Democrats Warn of Shutdown Showdown Over Trump's Mexican Border Wall \(Roll Call\)](#); [Dems warn against border wall in shutdown fight \(Politico\)](#)

Roll Call reports that much of the federal government may be headed toward further stopgap spending through a continuing resolution. [Senators Cranky About Appropriations Process](#)

Salon reports that the No Taxpayer Revenue Used to Monetize the Presidency Act, or, the No TRUMP Act, a measure introduced by Rep. Earl Blumenauer, "would prohibit the use of taxpayer dollars to pay for events, overnight stays, food or other expenses at hotels owned or operated by a president or his relatives." [Democrat Congressman introduces "No TRUMP Act" to prevent taxpayer spending at Trump properties](#)

BNA reports that some senators are planning to dive deep into Securities and Exchange Commission chairman nominee Jay Clayton's lengthy client list when he testifies before the Senate Banking Committee March 23. [Senate Dems to Focus on SEC Pick Clayton's Clients](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

AJC.com reports that as part of an agreement struck with the Office of Government Ethics, former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue plans to step down from his business holding company and restructure his family trusts in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest should the Senate confirm him to be secretary of agriculture. [SonnyWatch: Perdue plans to divest assets after confirmation](#) In a related article, *Politico* reports Perdue has long mixed personal and political business to benefit his friends and business associates and he's on track to do it again, even before he's confirmed to the Cabinet post. [How Perdue's power benefits his friends](#)

Time reports that despite the trouble caused by business interests in the Trump administration, experts say that this debate is in many ways just more of the same because since "the early days of the Republic, the question of whether government officials can do well for the nation and themselves at the same time has simmered — occasionally boiling over." [Questions of Profit in Politics Raised by Trump Administration Are Older Than You May Think](#)

Boston Globe reports that President Donald Trump is still months behind where experts in both parties say he should be, with one former State Department official saying "this is the slowest transition in decades." ['Slowest transition in decades' has dust piling up in key offices](#) Relatedly, *CNN* reports that President Trump still hasn't named a number of key deputy secretaries to back up his Cabinet. [Trump administration slow to name deputies](#)

The Daily Beast reports that the White House Counsel "has special responsibility for legal and ethics compliance within the West Wing," according to a former White House Counsel. The article opines that the White House Counsel's office thus would have been in charge of screening the incoming National Security Advisor for conflicts of interest and related ethics issues and should have raised the foreign agent issue with former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn to uncover all of the facts and to counsel him on whether and how he might resolve the issue before he assumed his White House post. [The Man Who Should Have Stopped Flynn Mess](#) In related stories, multiple outlets report that the Trump transition team, then headed by Vice President Mike Pence, were told of Mr. Flynn's foreign lobbying. [Trump transition was told of Flynn's lobbying, congressman's letter to Pence shows \(The Charlotte Observer\)](#); [FLYNN'S LAWYER TOLD TRUMP TEAM](#)

[ABOUT LOBBYING DURING TRANSITION \(ABC 7 News\)](#); [White House: Flynn's Foreign Lobbying Didn't Raise Red Flags \(The Huffington Post\)](#)

Multiple outlets report on the President's alleged conflicts of interest. [Top Bush ethics lawyer: Omitting countries that do business with the Trump Organization from the travel ban is 'a very serious conflict of interest' \(Business Insider\)](#); [Democrats question Trump 'conflict of interest' with Deutsche Bank investigation \(The Guardian\)](#); [Democrats' Letters Ask For Answers About Trump's Conflicts, Ethics And Michael Flynn \(The Huffington Post\)](#); [Donald Trump's conflicts of interest scandal 'will eventually be too much to take', Obama's ethics lawyer says \(Independent\)](#); [Trump's new job is good for his golf empire, and critics complain \(My Palm Beach Post\)](#); [6 Ways Trump's White House Is the Most Unethical Admin Yet \(Care2\)](#); [More than Mar-a-Lago: Members of all Trump clubs could have access to the president \(Open Secrets\)](#); [President a regular at Trump properties \(My Twin Tiers\)](#); [To interest Trump, Afghanistan dangles investment opportunity \(Politico\)](#)

WTOP reports that President Donald Trump's pick to lead the Food and Drug Administration has deep ties to Wall Street and the pharmaceutical industry. [Trump's choice for FDA has ties to Wall Street, drug makers](#)

Patch reports that the Trump administration has quietly installed hundreds of officials to serve on "beachhead teams" at every major federal agency, including many former lobbyists. The article quotes the director of the Revolving Door Project at the Center for Economic and Policy Research who said that "[i]f the public and Senate is in the dark about a team created without a Senate confirmation process, no one will be permitted to shed light on who is hopelessly conflicted or who is obviously unqualified — and who is both." [Meet The Hundreds Of Officials Trump Has Quietly Installed Across The Government: ProPublica](#)

Multiple outlets report that Donald Trump Jr. insisted that he's had virtually "zero contact" with his father underscoring the distance he's been keeping from the president to defuse any conflict of interest accusations. [Donald Trump Jr. Insists He's Had 'Zero Contact' With His Father \(The Huffington Post\)](#); [Donald Trump Jr., running the family business, says he has nearly 'zero contact' with his father \(Chicago Tribune\)](#); [Donald Trump Jr assures 'zero contact' with father about business \(International Business Times\)](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 13

Senate: March 16-17

From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [Monica M. G. Ashar](#); (b)(6) Janice Rodgers Email Address
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Steven Andrew Engel
Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 4:10:40 PM
Attachments: [Engel, Steven A. finalsenateltr.pdf](#)
[Engel, Steven A. final278.pdf](#)
[Engel, Steven A. finalEA.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Steven Andrew Engel, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson

Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

202-482-9283

From: Brandon A. Steele
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Cc: [News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, March 14, 2017
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:15:06 PM

The Senate reconvenes at 2:00 p.m.

According to CQ, the Senate reconvenes at 2 p.m. and is expected to resume consideration of a joint resolution (H J Res 42) that would disapprove and nullify a Labor Department rule that limits the occupations for which states can require drug tests for individuals applying for unemployment benefits. Roll call votes, including a vote on passage of the joint resolution, are expected.

The House is not in session because of the approaching storm.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets report on the President's alleged conflicts of interest. [This Level of Corruption Is Unprecedented in the Modern History of the Presidency Trump's Trademarks Pose Ethics Challenge for the Executive Branch Bharara Firing Shows Trump's Ethics Problem, Says Law Professor WHAT IS GOING ON WITH PREET BHARARA?](#)

Multiple outlets discuss the transition. [President Trump is running an empty government Donald Trump shows why businessmen make bad presidents Stop Winging It, Mr. President Trump's Agriculture pick submits ethics forms How Perdue's power benefits his friends Trump Lets Key Offices Gather Dust Amid 'Slowest Transition in Decades' Sonny Perdue's Revolving Door Policy Already in Action Agriculture Nominee Perdue To Distance Himself From Businesses Trump Chooses Dr. Scott Gottlieb To Head Food And Drug Administration](#)

POGO reports that the Justice Department has made informational materials on foreign lobbying available online. [Justice Dept. Improves Access to Foreign Lobbying Documents](#)

Federal News Radio quotes OGE employees in an article on FOIA. [Agency FOIA offices to get self-help tool from DOJ](#)

USA Today reports that Rep. Pascrell has requested details on Mr. Flynn's lobbyist status. [N.J. congressman wants details on Michael Flynn's lobbying status](#)

Multiple outlets report on a real estate deal involving Mr. Kushner and a Chinese firm. [Kushners Set to Get \\$400 Million From Chinese Firm on Tower Chinese firm invests \\$400 million in building owned by Jared Kushner's family The Kushner family is engaged in an 'unusually favorable deal' with a Chinese company Jared Kushner's Family Makes Millions Off Shady Deal With Chinese Company — MORE Trump Conflicts Of Interest??](#)

Science Daily discusses research at the University of Montreal that uses game theory to argue that, as anti-corruption NGOs band together to become more efficient at fighting corruption, the payoffs to a corrupt government would be expected to increase. "When anti-corruption works, it creates wealth for everyone -- including, paradoxically, the government, because it has its fingers in the pie, too." [Profiting from the fight against corruption](#)

The Columbus Dispatch reports on Sen. Casey's letter to OGE. [Senator asks ethics office to assess Trump's foreign deals](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Multiple outlets discuss President Trump's executive order on reorganizing the federal executive branch. [Why Trump's government overhaul won't work Trump Orders Agencies to Eliminate Waste, Workforce Redundancies The Latest: Trump orders review of executive branch Executive Order Aims to Eliminate Unnecessary Federal Agencies](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 13

Senate: March 16-17

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From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [\(b\)\(6\) Jane Halprin Email Address](#); [Kimberly L. Sikora Panza](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Ajit V. Pai
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:09:52 AM
Attachments: [Pai, Ajit V. finalEA.pdf](#)
[Pai, Ajit V. final278.pdf](#)
[Pai, Ajit V. finalsenateltr.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Ajit V. Pai, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Member, Federal Communications Commission.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson

Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

202-482-9283

From: Leigh J. Francis
To: [Wendy G. Pond](#); [Monica M. G. Ashar](#); [Rachel K. Dowell](#)
Subject: RE: Ethics Pledge
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:23:35 AM

Hi Wendy,

If Monica or Rachel responded, feel free to ignore. I believe that the procedure for Pledge-related questions you outlined below is still the proper one.

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

. Thanks!

Best,

Leigh

Nonresponsive record

[Redacted]

From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, March 15, 2017
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:06:12 PM

The Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvened at 9:30 a.m. and is expected to resume consideration of the nomination of Dan Coats to be director of national intelligence. The chamber is expected to take a cloture vote on the nomination at 10 a.m. The hearing on the nomination of Alexander Acosta to be Labor secretary was rescheduled to March 22.

The House reconvenes at 4:30 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at 4:30 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Legislative News

Government Executive reports on “government shutdown threats” from Congressional Democrats. [Democrats Threaten Shutdown Over Trump, Republican Priorities](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Politico and *NPR* report that CREW filed a complaint alleging that Trump aide Christopher Liddell potentially violated criminal conflict of interest laws in January and early February. [CREW accuses Trump White House aide of violating conflict of interest laws \(Politico\)](#); [Ethics Documents Suggest Conflict Of Interest By Trump Adviser \(NPR\)](#)

Federal News Radio reports that the White House has withdrawn nearly two dozen pending nominations. [Trump withdraws nominations for OSC chief, four IGs](#)

Government Executive reports on the Trump administration’s progress in the nomination process, citing data released by OGE. [Trump Nominees’ Complex Finances Slow Vetting Process](#)

The Hill publishes an opinion piece by Craig Holman on the President’s ethics executive order. [The curious case of President Trump's ethics executive order](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Government Executive reports that the President’s expected budget cuts may be more severe than initially thought. The article cites calculations by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities that found that the expected cut of \$54 billion would mean a 25 percent cut below the 2010 spending level for domestic agencies when adjusting for inflation. [Why Trump's Budget Cuts Are Even More Severe Than Advertised](#); see also [Anxiety, fear, uncertainty mark federal employees awaiting Trump’s budget \(WaPo\)](#)

Federal Times publishes an analysis of the President’s agency reorganization order. [4 questions about Trump’s agency reorg order](#)

Federal Times reports that OPM established agreements with four colleges and universities to provide federal employees with scholarships and tuition breaks. [OPM: Feds to get scholarships, tuition breaks at 4 colleges](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 24

Senate: March 16-17

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, March 16, 2017
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:47:01 AM

The Senate meets in a pro forma session.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 1181) that would clarify the conditions under which certain Veterans Affairs Department (VA) beneficiaries may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for purposes of gun purchases. It is also expected to consider a bill (HR 1259) that would expand the ability of the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to fire or demote employees based on performance or misconduct and begin consideration of a bill (HR 1367) that would establish new programs at the VA Department to help recruit and retain a strong medical professional workforce.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Union Recorder and *Huffington Post* report on conflicts of interest facing the Agriculture nominee. [Agriculture nominee to distance himself from businesses Donald Trump's Agriculture Pick Has Some Serious Ethics Issues, Too](#)

Compliance Week reports on the conflicts of interest questions plaguing SEC nominee Clayton. [SEC nominee faces conflict of interest questions](#)

The Hill reports on the fact that lobbyists are working within the Trump administration. [Lobbyists finding spots in Trump administration](#)

WTOP reports that "the Senate backed key players of President Donald Trump's national security team on Wednesday, confirming his pick for intelligence director and clearing the way for an active-duty Army general to serve as his national security adviser." [Senate votes to approve Trump's picks for key security posts](#)

Daily Kos reports on President Trump's Chinese trademarks. [China rewards to Trump, Kushner show how lucrative conflict of interest can be](#)

Business Insider reports that former Bush ethics counsel Richard Painter has said omitting countries with which the President does business from the travel ban is a serious conflict of interest. [Top Bush ethics lawyer: Omitting countries that do business with the Trump Organization from the travel ban is 'a very serious conflict of interest'](#)

Fox News and the *Washington Free Beacon* report that the FBI Deputy Director did not disclose his wife's campaign donations from Clinton ally Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. [FBI No. 2 did not disclose wife's ties to Clinton ally, records show FBI Deputy Director Did Not Include Wife's Ties to Clinton Ally in Financial Disclosure Forms](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 24

Senate: March 16-17

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

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From: Kelsey D. Phipps
To: [Agency Wide; News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, March 17, 2017
Date: Friday, March 17, 2017 11:04:43 AM

The Senate is not in session.

The House reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to complete consideration of a bill (HR 1367) that would establish new programs at the VA Department to help recruit and retain a strong medical professional workforce.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Hill reports that coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler will be President Trump's pick for deputy chief of the EPA. [Trump to name coal lobbyist as deputy EPA chief: report](#)

The Washington Examiner reports on the progress of Sonny Perdue's nomination. [Where in the world is Sonny Perdue?](#)

The New York Times reports that White House economic advisor Gary Cohn is selling shares he owns in a Chinese bank that total \$16 million. [Trump Adviser Gary Cohn to Sell Stake in Chinese Bank Giant](#)

Courthousenews.com reports that an attorney is suing the President in Federal Court "to compel compliance by the president with the financial disclosure requirements of the Ethics in Government Act." [Attorney Sues Trump for Financial Disclosure](#)

Thinkprogress.com reports that the Trump administration is having a chilling effect on the work of inspectors general. [The sneaky way the Trump administration is chilling government oversight](#)

The American Prospect reports on the alleged conflicts of interest and ethical challenges posed by the Trump administration. [A White House Without Rules](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 24

Senate: March 16-17

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

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From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, March 20, 2017
Date: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:57:51 AM

The Senate is not in session.

According to *CQ*, the Senate meets in a pro forma session.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Legislative News

Federal News Radio reports on a budget amendment for fiscal year 2017 that was submitted by the White House to Congress last Thursday. [There's a 2017 budget amendment too. It calls for \\$18 billion in cuts to civilian agencies](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Washington Examiner publishes an opinion piece regarding the applicability of ethics rules to White House personnel. [The Office of Government Ethics director shouldn't be a partisan hack against Trump](#)

USA Today publishes an opinion piece by Norman Eisen and Richard Painter on what the two call the President's "war on ethics." [Trump's unprecedented war on ethics: Eisen and Painter](#)

The Intercept reports on the role of Carl Icahn in the Trump administration, noting that "Icahn could be acting as a 'special government employee,' even if he's unpaid." [TRUMP ADVISER IS BETTING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT TRUMP WILL TAKE HIS ADVICE](#)

The Hill publishes an opinion piece on President Trump's ethics executive order. [No lobbying please, we're American](#)

Additional media outlets have picked up the story reported last week regarding a federal lawsuit filed against the President, alleging that he failed to properly report his personal debt on financial disclosure reports. [Lawyer files suit against Trump over debt disclosure: report \(The Hill\)](#); [Trump sued over disclosure of personal debts \(Politico\)](#)

ProPublica reports that the former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York was investigating whether stock trades by Tom Price, who is now Secretary of HHS, may have violated the STOCK Act. [Fired U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara Said to Have Been Investigating HHS Secretary Tom Price](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: March 24, 31, April 7-21

Senate: April 10-21

Nonresponsive record

From: Devine, Curt [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 1:40 PM
To: Contact OGE
Cc: Leigh J. Francis; Vincent Salamone
Subject: CNN Request

Hi Vince and colleagues,

My name is Curt Devine and I'm with CNN in Washington. I'm working on a story examining the way in which the Trump Organization could be profiting from the President's travel to places such as the Mar-a-Lago Club. I'm wondering if someone within your office would be available for a background conversation on the applicable policies for gift giving for the Executive Branch. What I'm trying to figure out is, as a private business, could Mar-a-Lago legally waive charges for room/lodging, rental space, food or other services, or would this constitute an illegal gift to government officials? In other words, would the Executive Office of the President and the other applicable agencies with officials staying at any Trump-owned resorts or hotels be legally obligated to pay for any rooms or services? I've seen some applicable reports on this, such as a [CRS report](#) that states an official "may not receive a gift given because of his official position," but I'd appreciate some help thinking through the ramifications of this.

If you have a moment, please call me on the numbers below.

Curt Devine

CNN, Washington

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Nonresponsive record

From: George Hancock
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 8:47 AM
To: Christopher J. Swartz
Subject: Detail

Chris:

I didn't have the old email, but I think this will help.

The new Administration has (b) (5) s:

- (b)(5)

The Learn about Integrity site, <https://community.max.gov/x/vQApLg>, has lots of Integrity resources, including short videos on how to use Integrity for different roles. We added a Nominee Functionality tab for agencies that you may find a useful reference. It has a short video.

The Nom-Resources.docx includes links to short, explanatory videos on how PPO and WHCO use Integrity to process Nominee reports.

Note: you had (still have) (b)(5)

(b) (5)

Don't hesitate to contact me on Integrity-related matters.

Thank you,

George Hancock
Integrity Manager
Program Counsel Division
Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202.482.9309

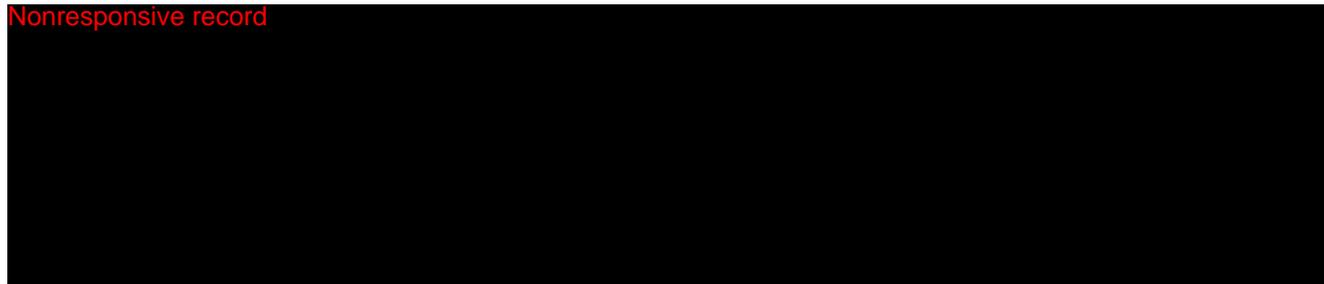
Learn about [INTEGRITY](#)

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Nonresponsive record



From: Chris Swartz [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Christopher Swartz; Christopher J. Swartz
Subject:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/01/14/with-trumps-conflicts-corporate-america-wouldnt-hire-him-as-ceo/?hpid=hp_regional-hp-cards_rhp-card-posteverything%3Ahomepage%2Fcard&utm_term=.8198ac669087

Chris Swartz

Nonresponsive record

From: Rachel K. Dowell
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:18 AM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: (b)(5) question

Seth,

To confirm, I am giving Wendy and Kim the following answer for their (b)(5) question:

(b)(5)
[Redacted]

Should they (b)(5)
[Redacted]

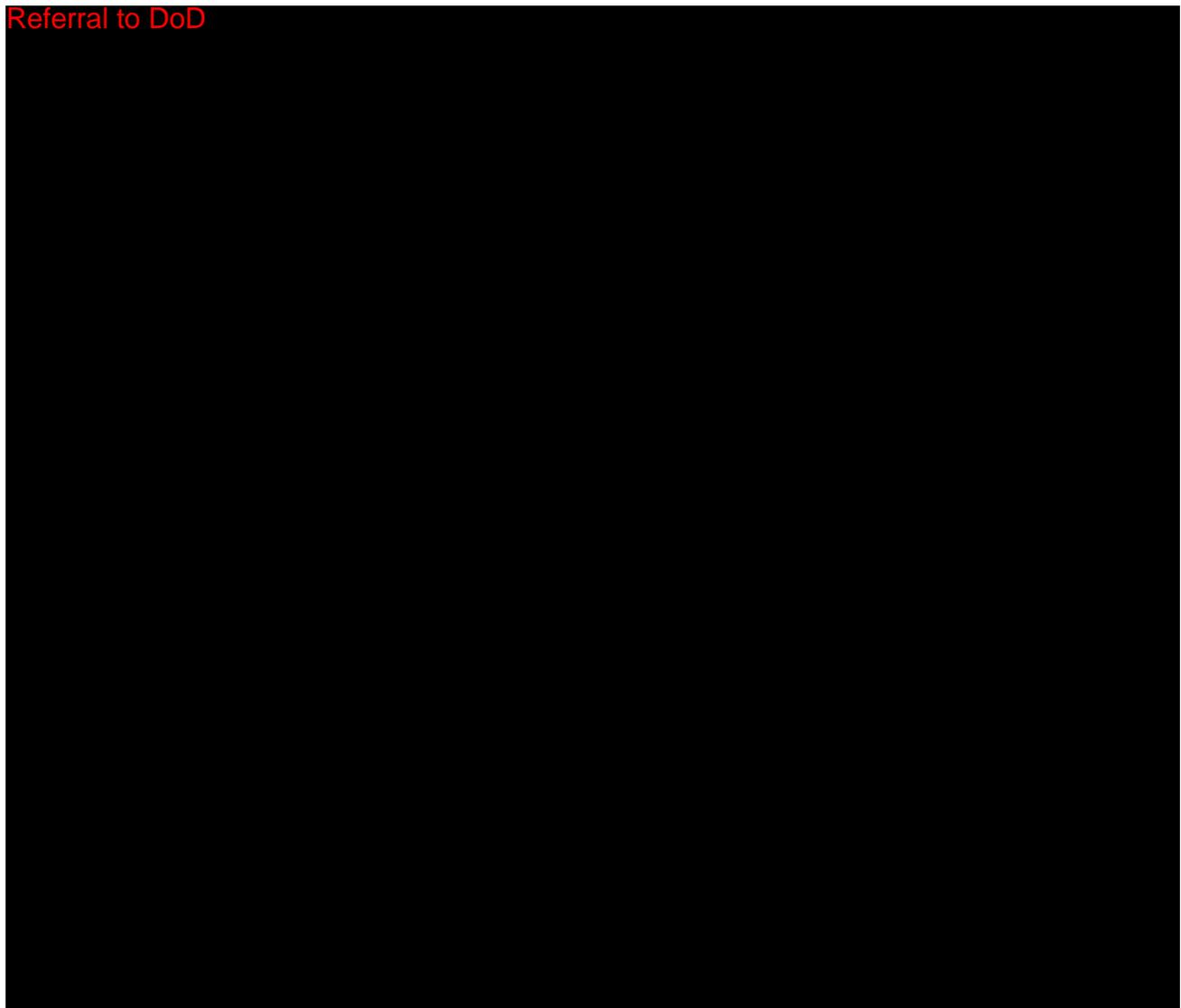
Thanks!
Rachel

--

Rachel K. Dowell
Assistant Counsel
Office of Government Ethics
General Counsel & Legal Policy Division
Ethics Law and Policy Branch
(202) 482-9267

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

Referral to DoD



Nonresponsive record

From: Teresa L. Williamson [mailto:tlwillia@oge.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Jim Robertson; Smith, Michael A (OST)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of Jeffrey A. Rosen

Good Afternoon,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for Jeffrey A. Rosen, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson
Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202-482-9283

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From: [Teresa L. Williamson](#)
To: [\(b\)\(6\), Peter Riesen Email Address](#); [Jim Robertson](#)
Subject: Public Financial Disclosure Report of David R. Malpass
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 10:31:26 AM
Attachments: [Malpass, David finalEA.pdf](#)
[Malpass, David final278.pdf](#)
[Malpass, David finalsenateltr.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for David R. Malpass, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of the Treasury.

Thanks!

Teresa Williamson
Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW - Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202-482-9283

From: Leigh J. Francis
To: [Seth Jaffe](#); [Wendy G. Pond](#)
Cc: [Rachel K. Dowell](#)
Subject: RE: AIMS 11836 re: who has to sign the Pledge
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 10:34:59 AM

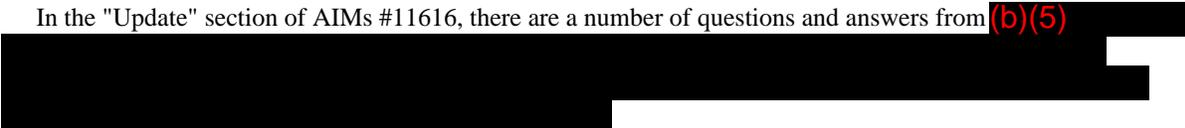
Seth,

(b)(5)



Wendy,

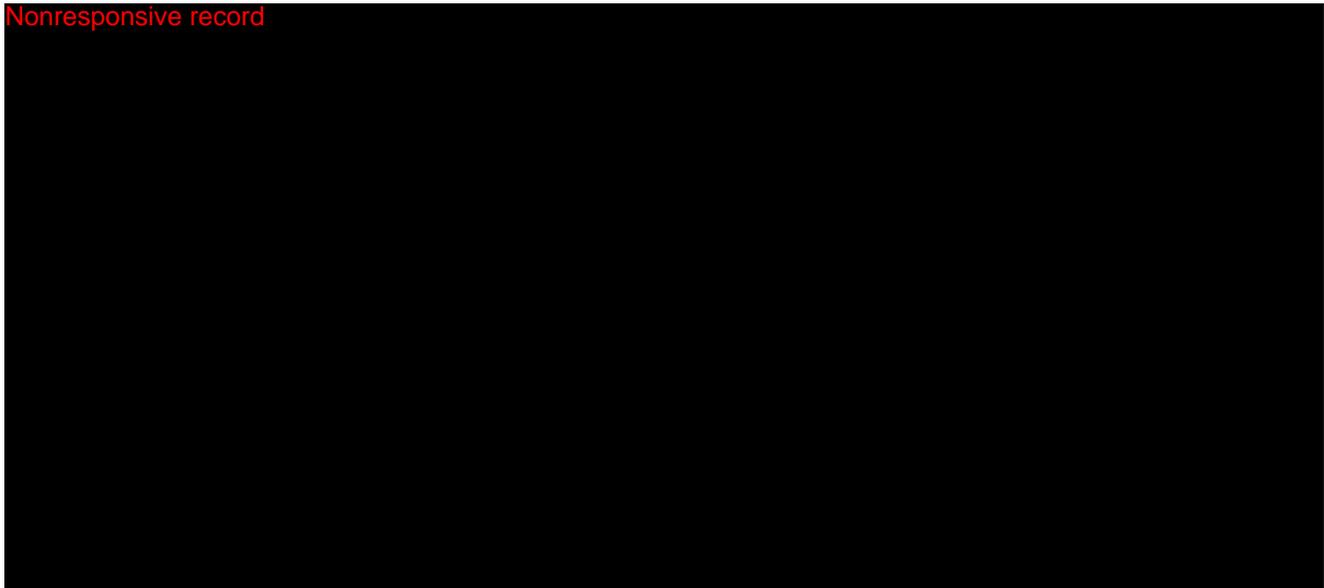
In the "Update" section of AIMS #11616, there are a number of questions and answers from (b)(5)



Best,

Leigh

Nonresponsive record



From: Wendy G. Pond
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:17 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: AIMS 11836 re: who has to sign the Pledge

I talked with Rachel and she suggested this should be a referral.

The question: (b)(5)

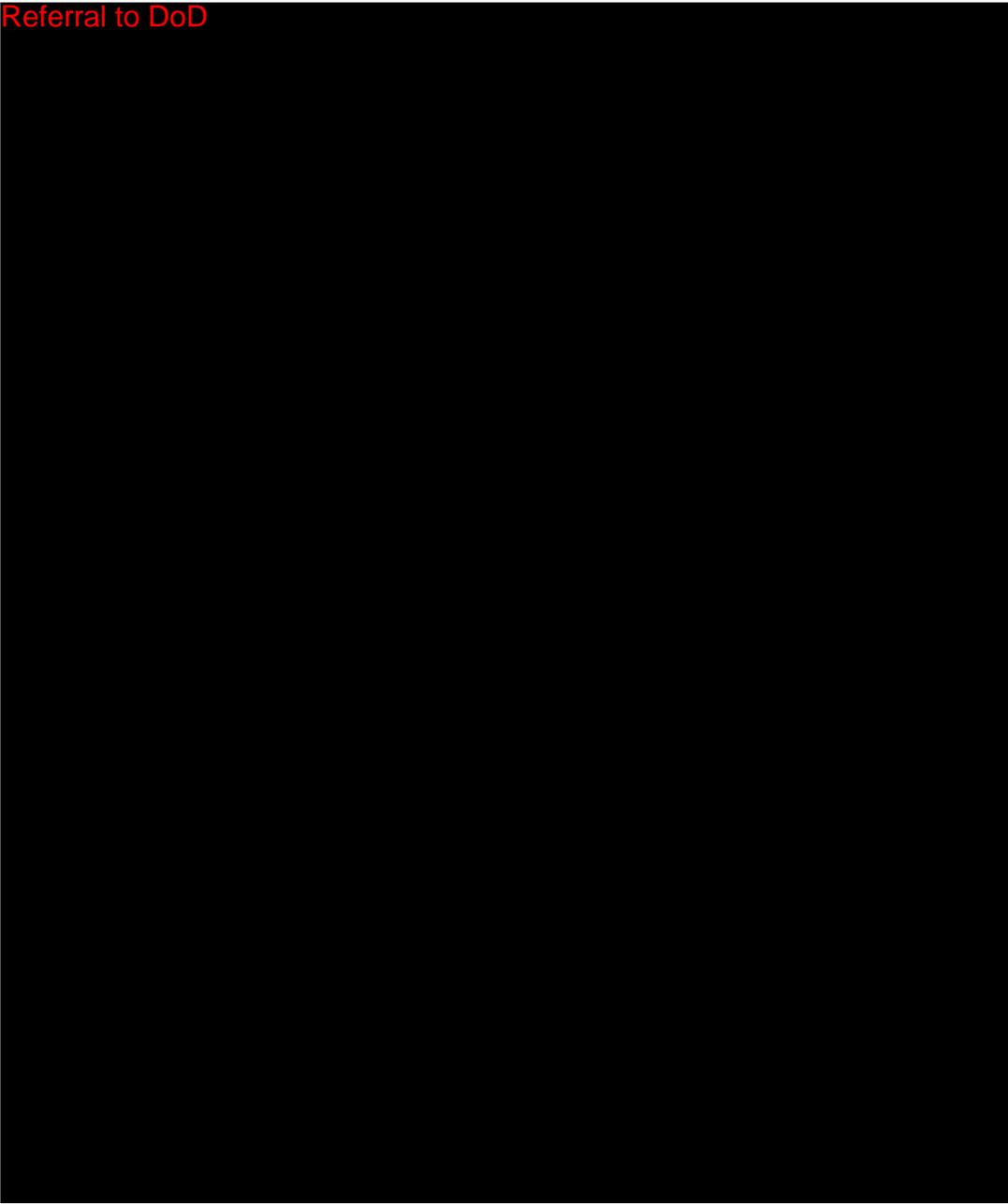


(b)(5)

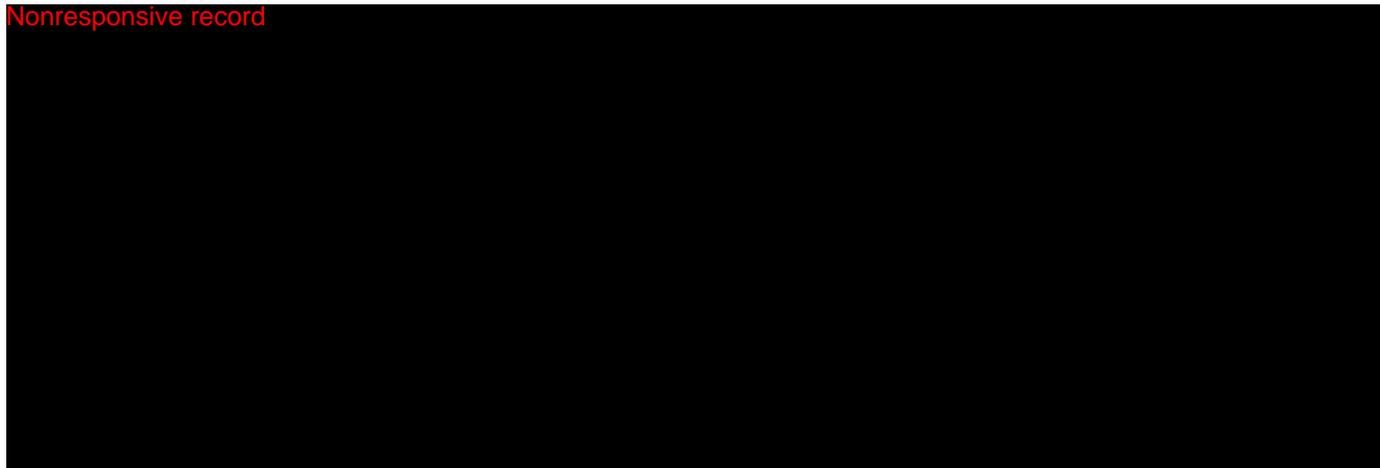
Nonresponsive record



Referral to DoD



Nonresponsive record



-----Original Message-----

From: George Hancock [<mailto:ghancock@oge.gov>]

Sent: Saturday, April 8, 2017 3:12 PM

To: Passantino, Stefan C. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Integrity <Integrity@oge.gov>

Cc: Augustine, Rene I. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Bullock, Katja EOP/WHO

(b) (6) Carroll, James W. EOP/WHO (b) (6); David J. Apol
<djapol@oge.gov>

Subject: RE: Initiating Career PAS Reports for State - Information Needed

Stefan:

Yes.

(b)(5)
[Redacted]

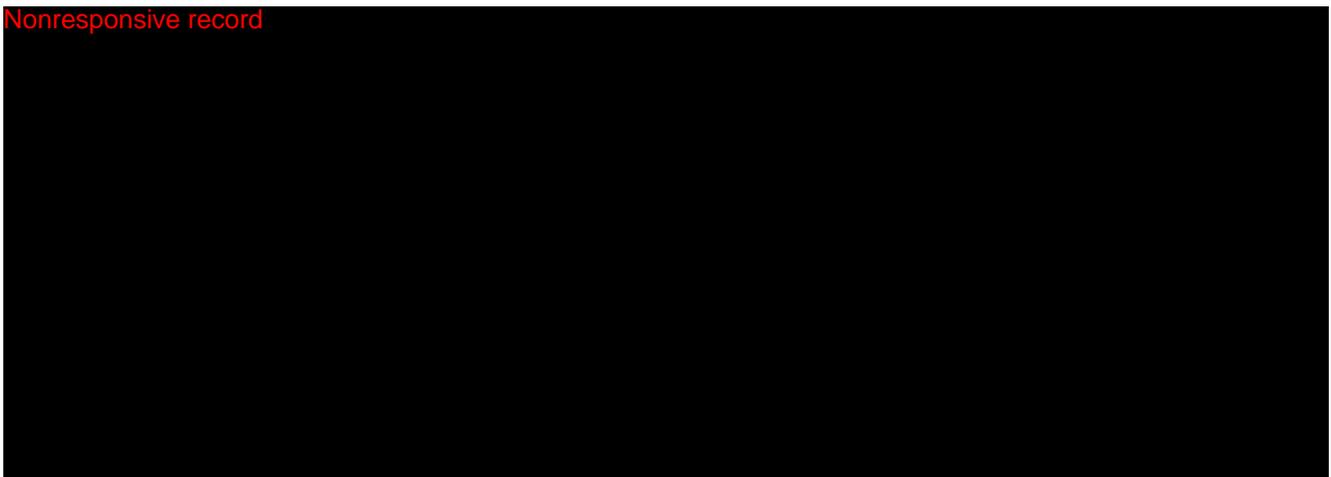
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thank you.

Nonresponsive record



Referral to HHS

