

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 7, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We are writing to request information about the activities of your Regulatory Reform Task Force. The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires transparency in agency decision-making, including at the EPA. Under APA § 552b^[1], federal agencies must “make public announcement, at least one week before the meeting, of the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting, whether it is to be open or closed to the public.” Furthermore, section 552b states that “minutes shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed and shall provide a full and accurate summary of any actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of each of the views expressed on any item and the record of any rollcall vote (reflecting the vote of each member on the question).”

Pursuant to section 552b of the APA, we respectfully request that you respond to, and provide all supporting documentation for, the following inquiries:

1. The names and titles of all current and former members of the EPA’s Regulatory Reform Task Force.
2. The names, titles, and affiliations of all current and former individuals serving as official or unofficial advisors to the EPA’s Regulatory Reform Task Force.
3. A detailed record of all current and future scheduled Task Force meetings, including meeting agendas and regulations discussed.
4. A written or recorded record of all Task Force meeting minutes and all relevant meeting documents, including related email communications.
5. If such written or recorded meeting minutes do not exist, please provide justification for violating the aforementioned section of the APA.

^[1] <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/laws/administrative-procedure/552b.html>

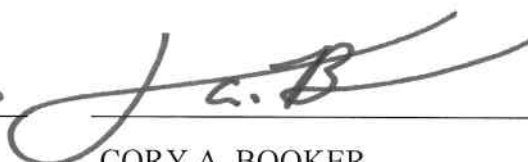
We are requesting this information because we are concerned with conflicts of interest among Task Force members, the lack of transparency regarding the selection of targeted regulations, and the lack of accountability following the decision-making process. We must ensure the actions of our federal agencies adhere to the highest ethical standards. We look forward to receiving your answers to these concerns. Please respond promptly by February 28.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ

U.S. Senator



CORY A. BOOKER

U.S. Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE

U.S. Senator