

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3312

To suspend proposed rulemaking signed by former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2018

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To suspend proposed rulemaking signed by former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Scott Pruitt
5 is Accountable Act of 2018” or the “EPA Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) on August 28, 2017, the Office of Inspector
9 General of the Environmental Protection Agency (re-
10 ferred to in this Act as the “EPA OIG”) announced

1 that it would conduct an audit of Scott Pruitt, then-
2 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
3 Agency (referred to in this Act as the “Agency”),
4 for—

5 (A) the unprecedented and frequent travel
6 expenses incurred by Mr. Pruitt for travel to
7 his home State of Oklahoma; and

8 (B) the reliance by Mr. Pruitt on first-
9 class seats on commercial airplanes;

10 (2) on December 6, 2017, the EPA OIG an-
11 nounced that it would review whether Mr. Pruitt or
12 his staff violated Federal lobbying laws during a
13 meeting in April 2017 with the National Mining As-
14 sociation, during which meeting it was reported that
15 Mr. Pruitt advised the Association to encourage
16 President Trump to withdraw from the Paris Cli-
17 mate Agreement;

18 (3) on December 8, 2017, the EPA OIG opened
19 a review into the manner in which the Agency de-
20 cided to spend more than \$25,000 to install a secure
21 soundproof communications booth in the office of
22 Mr. Pruitt;

23 (4) on January 8, 2018, the EPA OIG began
24 an audit on the exploitation of the Safe Drinking
25 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) by Mr. Pruitt

1 to give pay raises to 2 top aides, even after the
2 Trump administration refused the request for those
3 pay raises;

4 (5) on April 17, 2018, the EPA OIG opened an
5 investigation into the use of a security detail by Mr.
6 Pruitt during personal trips to Disneyland and the
7 Rose Bowl;

8 (6) on April 19, 2018, the EPA OIG confirmed
9 a probe into a request from Mr. Pruitt for around-
10 the-clock security protection;

11 (7) on April 25, 2018, the EPA OIG agreed to
12 examine the use by Mr. Pruitt of Agency staff for
13 personal errands, including—

14 (A) inquiring about purchasing a used
15 mattress from the Trump International Hotel;

16 (B) locating a particular lotion from the
17 Ritz-Carlton Hotels; and

18 (C) seeking a Chick-fil-A franchise for his
19 wife;

20 (8) on April 27, 2018, the EPA OIG opened a
21 review into the rental by Mr. Pruitt of a bedroom in
22 Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, from an energy in-
23 dustry lobbyist for \$50 per night, a rate that is well
24 below market value; and

1 (9) on May 15, 2018, the EPA OIG announced
 2 that it would look into the use of multiple email ad-
 3 dresses by Mr. Pruitt as potential violations of chap-
 4 ter 31 of title 44, United States Code, relating to
 5 records management by Federal agencies, and of the
 6 records management policy of the Agency.

7 **SEC. 3. SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING BY PRU-**
 8 **ITT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Agency
 10 shall not finalize or engage in any rulemaking with respect
 11 to a rule for which the advance notice of proposed rule-
 12 making or the notice of proposed rulemaking was signed
 13 by Scott Pruitt until the date on which the report de-
 14 scribed in subsection (b) becomes publicly available.

15 (b) REPORT.—On completion of the audits, reviews,
 16 investigations, and probe described in section 2, the In-
 17 specter General of the EPA OIG shall make publicly avail-
 18 able a report that describes the findings and conclusions
 19 of each audit, review, investigation, and probe.

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