

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2018

The Honorable Arthur A. Elkins Jr.
Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Inspector General
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Inspector General Elkins:

We write today to bring your attention to a very sensitive issue (according to the enclosed media article) that may require an investigation by your office into the conduct of certain career employees at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

It is our understanding that a major original equipment manufacturer (OEM)¹ and its affiliates lobbied the EPA to secure a prohibition on glider trucks in the Phase II Rule² in 2016. When EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt repealed the current glider rule³, career employees at the EPA communicated with the OEM with the intent of eliminating the glider industry. In our opinion, EPA's conduct undermines the current Administration's policies and prevents a repeal of the rule.

For example, the OEM proposed testing the emissions of gliders in 2017. This test was performed unbeknownst to Administrator Pruitt. Over a three-month period, the OEM allegedly located and purchased gliders trucks for the EPA to test. The EPA would purportedly run the emissions testing according to specifications provided by the OEM. We have serious concerns about these testing methods. At the very least, the EPA's testing methods were highly questionable and should not be recognized.

Additionally, your office should review a trade association that opposes glider kits for a potential lobbying violation⁴. Specifically, the trade association's lobbyist who was once a senior employee of the EPA and is on record as being instrumental in the drafting of the Phase II Rule communicated and influenced the EPA less than 10 months from his departure.

Even more troubling, there is a strong possibility that email communications between EPA staff and the OEM may have been deleted. We ask that you use your authority to investigate this potential violation and seize all computer hardware and related software as outlined in the attachments for a deeper forensic investigation into the missing emails.

¹ Volvo Group North America

² See 81 Fed. Reg. 73,478 (Oct. 25, 2016).

³ See 82 Fed. Reg. 53,442 (Nov. 16, 2017).

⁴ See 18 U.S.C. § 207.

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We appreciate your attention to this issue. If there are any matters that fall outside the scope of your authority, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can ensure other agencies are properly addressing them.

Sincerely,



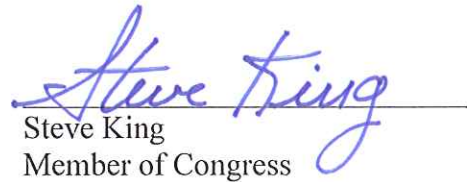
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress