

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



January 16, 2017

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz:

In a letter dated January 12, 2017, you requested that I attend a transcribed interview with your Committee staff to answer questions about the role of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE). Over the weekend, your office modified your original request and proposed a private meeting with you and the Ranking Member and your respective staffs to take place on January 23. Through staff, I requested that meeting be open to the public. I recently received word from your Chief of Staff that you are not able to accommodate that request. I write to ask you to reconsider. Allowing the public to attend our meeting—or, at the very least, to view it through live broadcast or the attendance of the news media—would ensure transparency and educate the public about how OGE guards the executive branch against conflicts of interest.

As you know, I have devoted most of my career to government ethics. I believe passionately that ethics matters and that if Americans do not have confidence that their government leaders' decisions are free from conflicts, the integrity of our government suffers. I have had the honor of helping thousands of officials from both parties ensure that their work is free from any conflicts of interest. In recent weeks, I have spoken publicly about my concerns about the President Elect's current plan to not divest—as well as to applaud some of his nominees' ethics agreements, such as Rex Tillerson's. My remarks were intended to educate the public about the shortcomings of the President Elect's current plan and made in the hopes of persuading him to make adjustments that will resolve his conflicts of interest. I believe these remarks to be in line with OGE's mission.

OGE is an independent agency that aims to prevent conflicts of interest in the executive branch. A core function of OGE is to educate the public about government ethics and “promote transparency of the executive branch ethics program by raising the visibility of the ethics



The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
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program and OGE, and by ensuring that ethics information is publicly available.”¹ Since the election, there has been significant public interest in OGE and government ethics issues. Our office has received an unprecedented volume of telephone calls, emails, and letters from members of the public related to our executive branch ethics program. As these communications make clear, the public wants to understand conflicts of interest in government and the role that OGE plays in preventing conflicts from hindering effective governance. Holding our meeting in public is in accordance with OGE’s educational function and will further ensure transparency in how we approach ethical governance.

Although I am willing to attend a private meeting if you insist, I am hopeful that you will agree that a public meeting is preferable. If a different date would allow for a public meeting, I would be happy to discuss alternative dates with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

WALTER
SHAUB

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director

 Digitally signed by WALTER SHAUB
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Office of
Government Ethics, cn=WALTER SHAUB,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=95491000364655
Date: 2017.01.16 22:44:35 -05'00'

cc. The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

¹ See <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Mission%20and%20Responsibilities>; see also, e.g., 5 C.F.R. § 2638.108(a)(16) (“The Office of Government Ethics conducts outreach to inform the public of matters related to the executive branch ethics program.”).

From: [Matthew A. Marinec](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: Scheduling
Date: Thursday, December 08, 2016 1:49:37 PM

Chairman Chaffetz's scheduler told me:

The Chairman requested that I pass on the message that he is disturbed and disappointed that we weren't able to make this happen. We'll have to come back to this in January to see if we can make something work.

To this, I quickly reminded her of our conversation yesterday whereby the ball was in her court as to whether or not the Chairman was amenable to a phone call next week as opposed to an in-person meeting for 12/8.

I reminded her again that I never once declined an in-person meeting. In fact, yesterday she asked me point blank if we were declining an in-person meeting, to which I responded no, but that we wanted to explore the option of a call on Monday, 12/12. I also reminded her that 2:30 pm 12/8 was one of her initial offerings, and one that was never declined by us and never taken off of the table by her.

I was eagerly standing by for her response. After respectfully waiting until 1:00 pm today, I called her and upon our exchange had above conversation.

Thanks,

Matthew Marinec, M.P.P.
Confidential Assistant to the Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Tel. 202.482.9286

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Skladany, Jon](#)
Subject: Connecting
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:57:59 PM

Shelley,

I'm copying Jon Skladany, OGR's new Staff Director.

I know you will enjoy working with each other.

Jon's cell phone is (b)(6) .

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Director of OGE](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [Director of OGE](#); [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: RE: Meeting
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:23:05 PM

Thanks for the phone call earlier, Shelley. I'm just adding Diana to this message.

Diana, we have an agreement in principle, but the date is actually TBD. Danielle Bryan had indicated in her conversation with me that the Chairman was eager to come to agreement before the Sunday morning TV shows, and tonight the Chairman's staffer confirmed that he's going on Stephanopolous (spelling?). We wanted to be helpful and try to accommodate his desire to come to an agreement before his TV appearance on the alternative plan he had initiated after sending his letter, so we agreed in principle but we still have some coordinating to do in order to figure out a workable date given the transition work that we're doing. Let me know your availability for the week after this coming one, in case we need some support.

There's two confusing things, but they may not need to be sorted out.

First is the statement by his staff that he wanted the letter he sent me to be withheld from the public. We were not the ones who released the letter, at least as far as Shelley or I know. Given that Chairman Chaffetz spoke to the press about his letter before sending it to us, I had assumed he was the one who released the letter. But he copied the ranking member on the letter, so maybe the minority released it. Shelley explained to the Chairman's staffer that a letter between two public institutions is not something we would have withheld from a FOIA response. It's not clear why the staffer raised this issue, but it seems like a non-issue because they didn't sound like they're blaming us. All the same, please just double-check on whether anyone released the letter for some reason? If so, we can follow up with the Chairman's staff to just let them know.

During Shelley's call, the Chairman's staffer didn't bring up that bizarre claim that we declined to meet with them in December. I told Danielle that we have emails corroborating the fact that the Chairman is the one who cancelled the meeting planned for 2:30 on the House's last day in session. I explained that his staffer even sent us a message explaining that he was on the floor at 2:30 and had a "hard stop" for a flight. Maybe Danielle passed on the word that we have emails and that news jogged their memory, or showed we could prove it. Please have your folks keep an eye on the news. Let me know if they repeat that incorrect claim to the press again. We'll need to decide whether to respond to correct the record if they keep repeating it. If they don't repeat it, I'm willing to forgive and forget. There's too many incorrect stories floating around out there to run around correcting all of them.

Thanks!

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Director of OGE
Subject: Meeting

Walt -

I spoke to Chairman Chaffetz's Chief of Staff and she provided the following details about the meeting being offered in lieu of the closed-door, transcribed interview:

The event is a meeting in a conference room with the Chairman and Ranking Member and their staff present, in addition to the Director of OGE and his chosen attendees. The Chairman, Ranking Member, and their respective staff may ask questions. The meeting will not be recorded or transcribed other than staff taking notes. The meeting is scheduled to last no longer than 90 minutes. The meeting will focus on OGE's public outreach activities and potential reauthorization. The meeting will not be under oath. The proposed meeting date and time is Monday, January 23 from 4-5:30 pm.

She indicated that they would like to de-escalate. She also indicated that the Chairman's letter was not intended to be made public, but did not suggest that we had made it public.

In addition, she agreed that there would be a staff-level conference call with HOCR majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting. I will provide a written summary of our understanding to both the majority and minority staff points of contact. I will also relay that the date does not work for you.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: [Diana Veilleux](#)
To: [Jennifer Matis](#)
Subject: FOIA Response
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 11:53:17 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[2017-01-12_JEC to Shaub-OGE - Transcribed Inverview.pdf](#)

Diana J. Veilleux

Diana J. Veilleux
Chief
Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9203
Diana.veilleux@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website at: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: Casey, Sharon [mailto:(b)(6) contact info]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 5:58 PM
To: Diana Veilleux
Cc: Thorlin, Jack; Bailey, Katie; McKenna, Liam
Subject: Letter to Director Shaub OGE re Transcribed Inverview

Attached please find a letter from Chairman Chaffetz of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Please note the letter requests a response by January 31, 2017.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,
Sharon Casey



Sharon Ryan Casey
Deputy Chief Clerk
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515
(b)(6) contact info

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

January 12, 2017

The Honorable Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Director Shaub:

On December 19, 2015, the Committee requested information related to the Office of Government Ethics' publicly-released guidance and other public interactions. The Committee's questions about blurring the line between public relations and official ethics guidance have resurfaced in the wake of OGE's communications with the incoming administration on ethics questions via Twitter and through the press.

On November 30, 2016, the OGE official Twitter account issued a series of tweets in response to the President-elect's announcement that he will address potential conflicts of interest related to his business interests and personal financial assets. The public OGE account tweeted:

.@realDonaldTrump OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!

.@realDonaldTrump [*sic*] As we discussed with your counsel, divestiture is the way to resolve these conflicts

.@realDonaldTrump this aligns with OGE opinion that POTUS should act as if 18 USC 208 applies. bit.ly/2fRpIG0

.@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts is to divest. Good call!

.@realDonaldTrump this divestiture does what handing over control could never have done.

.@realDonaldTrump – we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if you divested, we meant it.

.@realDonaldTrump OGE applauds the "total" divestiture decision. Bravo!

.@realDonaldTrump Brilliant! Divestiture is good for you, very good for America!

.@realDonaldTrump We can't repeat enough how good this total divestiture will be.¹

It was not clear whether the tweets constituted official OGE guidance or something less formal. It is clear, however, the tweets publicized private discussions with the President-elect's counsel. The tweets also created the appearance that OGE approved the President-elect's divestiture plan, which caused further confusion.

The line between official OGE policy and informal commentary was also blurred in May 2015. At that time, OGE offered public comments in response to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's failure to disclose honoraria paid to the Clinton Foundation in return for speeches made by her or her husband while she was Secretary of State. Specifically, OGE spokesman Vincent Salamone issued the following statement:

Disclosure of speaking fees is not required when a public filer or the filer's spouse is acting as an agent of an organization and payment is made directly to that organization. The rule is different when the speaking is done in a personal capacity and the fees are directed or donated to charity, in which case disclosure would be required.²

The commentary offered in response to the Clinton case created confusion. Your agency had not conducted any investigation of the circumstances of the speeches that would have allowed it to determine whether the Clintons were acting as agents of the Clinton Foundation. Ethics experts stated that there was little evidence the speeches had anything to do with the Clinton Foundation.³ The Office of Government Ethics also declined to comment when asked by the press whether this exception has previously appeared in the agency's public guidance or regulations.⁴

Your agency's mission is to provide clear ethics guidance, not engage in public relations. The Committee is thus continuing its examination of OGE's operations. OGE's statutory authorization lapsed at the end of fiscal year 2007 and the Committee has jurisdiction in the House of Representatives for reauthorizing the office. To help the Committee understand how you perceive OGE's role, among other things, please make yourself available for a transcribed interview with Committee staff as soon as possible, but no later than January 31, 2017. The Committee may also need to interview additional witnesses pursuant to this review.

¹ Office of Gov't Ethics (@OfficeGovEthics), Twitter (Nov. 30, 2016), <https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics/status/804020923800158209>.

² Josh Gerstein, *Hillary's speech disclosures come under fire*, POLITICO, May 20, 2015.

³ *Id.*

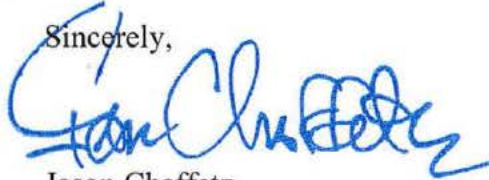
⁴ *Id.*

The Honorable Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
January 12, 2017
Page 3

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

Please contact Jack Thorlin of the Committee staff at (202) 226-4240 to schedule the transcribed interview requested herein or with any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Chaffetz", written in a cursive style.

Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

From: [Diana Veilleux](#)
To: [Jennifer Matis](#)
Subject: FOIA Response
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 11:53:53 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Diana J. Veilleux

Diana J. Veilleux
Chief
Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9203
Diana.veilleux@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website at: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: Diana Veilleux
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 7:45 PM
To: 'Casey, Sharon'
Cc: Thorlin, Jack; Bailey, Katie; McKenna, Liam
Subject: RE: Letter to Director Shaub OGE re Transcribed Interview

Good Evening

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the referenced correspondence from Chairman Chaffetz. If you have any further questions about this matter, please direct them to me or to Shelley Finlayson at shelley.finlayson@oge.gov.

Best regards,

Diana J. Veilleux

Diana J. Veilleux
Chief
Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9203
Diana.veilleux@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website at: www.oge.gov
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Attached please find a letter from Chairman Chaffetz of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Please note the letter requests a response by January 31, 2017.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,
Sharon Casey



Sharon Ryan Casey
Deputy Chief Clerk
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515
[\(b\)\(6\) contact info](#)

- Saturday, December 3 – email requesting a meeting between the Chairman and the Director
- Monday, December 5 called his Chief of Staff to request information about the meeting
- Tuesday, December 6 – his COS returned my call
- Mat has phone tag with scheduler and Thursday at 2:30 looks like only option that may work. We offer the following Monday. This is his summary of those exchanges:

The Chairman requested that I pass on the message that he is disturbed and disappointed that we weren't able to make this happen. We'll have to come back to this in January to see if we can make something work.

To this, I quickly reminded her of our conversation yesterday whereby the ball was in her court as to whether or not the Chairman was amenable to a phone call next week as opposed to an in-person meeting for 12/8.

I reminded her again that I never once declined an in-person meeting. In fact, yesterday she asked me point blank if we were declining an in-person meeting, to which I responded no, but that we wanted to explore the option of a call on Monday, 12/12. I also reminded her that 2:30 pm 12/8 was one of her initial offerings, and one that was never declined by us and never taken off of the table by her.

I was eagerly standing by for her response. After respectfully waiting until 1:00 pm today, I called her and upon our exchange had above conversation.

- I email his COS when they suggest we are declining a meeting and stop answering our calls the day of the proposed meeting.

From: Shelley K. Finlayson [<mailto:skfinlay@oge.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Hemingway, Jennifer
Subject: RE: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

Hi Jennifer –

The Director's scheduler just indicated that we are uncertain based on his exchange with the Chairman's scheduler about whether we are on for a 2:30 meeting or not. I understand that he was waiting to hear back about the possibility of a call on Monday, but did not. The Director is available for a meeting today if the Chairman would still like to meet in person. Please let me know if the Director is expected at 2:30.

Thanks,

Shelley

- We wait (up at the Hill) and continue to call with no one answering.
- I receive the following message from his COS the next day (Friday, December 9)

Hi Shelley,

I'm sorry to have missed this yesterday. We were on the floor with bills/votes and the Chairman's scheduled was backed up with a hard stop for a return flight home.

I believe Dannie is working to schedule the in person meeting for January.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

From: [Director of OGE](#)
To: **(b)(6) J Heminway, J Skladany, K Boyd**
Cc: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [Walter M. Shaub](#); [Matthew A. Marinec](#)
Subject: Letter from OGE Director Walter M. Shaub, Jr. dated January 16, 2017
Date: Monday, January 16, 2017 11:07:36 PM
Attachments: [16 January 2017 letter from OGE Director W Shaub Jr.pdf](#)

Please find the attached letter from OGE Director Walter M. Shaub, Jr. The original will follow by regular mail.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



January 16, 2017

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz:

In a letter dated January 12, 2017, you requested that I attend a transcribed interview with your Committee staff to answer questions about the role of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE). Over the weekend, your office modified your original request and proposed a private meeting with you and the Ranking Member and your respective staffs to take place on January 23. Through staff, I requested that meeting be open to the public. I recently received word from your Chief of Staff that you are not able to accommodate that request. I write to ask you to reconsider. Allowing the public to attend our meeting—or, at the very least, to view it through live broadcast or the attendance of the news media—would ensure transparency and educate the public about how OGE guards the executive branch against conflicts of interest.

As you know, I have devoted most of my career to government ethics. I believe passionately that ethics matters and that if Americans do not have confidence that their government leaders' decisions are free from conflicts, the integrity of our government suffers. I have had the honor of helping thousands of officials from both parties ensure that their work is free from any conflicts of interest. In recent weeks, I have spoken publicly about my concerns about the President Elect's current plan to not divest—as well as to applaud some of his nominees' ethics agreements, such as Rex Tillerson's. My remarks were intended to educate the public about the shortcomings of the President Elect's current plan and made in the hopes of persuading him to make adjustments that will resolve his conflicts of interest. I believe these remarks to be in line with OGE's mission.

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The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
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Although I am willing to attend a private meeting if you insist, I am hopeful that you will agree that a public meeting is preferable. If a different date would allow for a public meeting, I would be happy to discuss alternative dates with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director

cc. The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

¹ See <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Mission%20and%20Responsibilities>; see also, e.g., 5 C.F.R. § 2638.108(a)(16) (“The Office of Government Ethics conducts outreach to inform the public of matters related to the executive branch ethics program.”).

From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Suber, Dannie](#); [Bailey, Katie](#)
Subject: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz
Date: Saturday, December 03, 2016 1:27:51 PM

Shelly,

Chairman Chaffetz would like to meet with Director Schaub by Thursday, December 7.

I've copied Dannie Suber for scheduling.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Suber, Dannie](#); [Bailey, Katie](#)
Subject: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz
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Sincerely,
Jennifer

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#)
Subject: Meeting
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:43:34 PM

Walt -

I spoke to Chairman Chaffetz's Chief of Staff and she provided the following details about the meeting being offered in lieu of the closed-door, transcribed interview:

The event is a meeting in a conference room with the Chairman and Ranking Member and their staff present, in addition to the Director of OGE and his chosen attendees. The Chairman, Ranking Member, and their respective staff may ask questions. The meeting will not be recorded or transcribed other than staff taking notes. The meeting is scheduled to last no longer than 90 minutes. The meeting will focus on OGE's public outreach activities and potential reauthorization. The meeting will not be under oath. The proposed meeting date and time is Monday, January 23 from 4-5:30 pm.

She indicated that they would like to de-escalate. She also indicated that the Chairman's letter was not intended to be made public, but did not suggest that we had made it public.

In addition, she agreed that there would be a staff-level conference call with HOCR majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting. I will provide a written summary of our understanding to both the majority and minority staff points of contact. I will also relay that the date does not work for you.

Thanks,
Shelley

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Thanks,
Shelley

From: [Skladany, Jon](#)
To: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: RE: Connecting
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 7:04:14 PM

Hi Shelley - looking forward to working with you.

Call or email any time!

Jon

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

From: Hemingway, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:58 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Skladany, Jon
Subject: Connecting

Shelley,

I'm copying Jon Skladany, OGR's new Staff Director.

I know you will enjoy working with each other.

Jon's cell phone is (b)(6)

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: RE: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz
Date: Friday, December 09, 2016 9:00:21 AM

Hi Shelley,

I'm sorry to have missed this yesterday. We were on the floor with bills/votes and the Chairman's scheduled was backed up with a hard stop for a return flight home.

I believe Dannie is working to schedule the in person meeting for January.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

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Thanks,
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From: Hemingway, Jennifer [mailto:(b)(6) contact info]
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2016 1:28 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Suber, Dannie; Bailey, Katie
Subject: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

Shelly,

Chairman Chaffetz would like to meet with Director Schaub by Thursday, December 7.

I've copied Dannie Suber for scheduling.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

OGE Confidential Notice: This email, including all attachments, may constitute a Federal record or other Government property that is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This email also may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the 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.

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Subject: RE: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

Hi Jennifer –

The Director's scheduler just indicated that we are uncertain based on his exchange with the Chairman's scheduler about whether we are on for a 2:30 meeting or not. I understand that he was waiting to hear back about the possibility of a call on Monday, but did not. The Director is available for a meeting today if the Chairman would still like to meet in person. Please let me know if the Director is expected at 2:30.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: Hemingway, Jennifer [mailto:(b)(6) contact info]
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2016 1:28 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Suber, Dannie; Bailey, Katie
Subject: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

Shelly,

Chairman Chaffetz would like to meet with Director Schaub by Thursday, December 7.

I've copied Dannie Suber for scheduling.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

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From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: "[Hemingway, Jennifer](#)"
Subject: RE: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz
Date: Thursday, December 08, 2016 1:16:56 PM

Hi Jennifer –

The Director's scheduler just indicated that we are uncertain based on his exchange with the Chairman's scheduler about whether we are on for a 2:30 meeting or not. I understand that he was waiting to hear back about the possibility of a call on Monday, but did not. The Director is available for a meeting today if the Chairman would still like to meet in person. Please let me know if the Director is expected at 2:30.

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Cc: Suber, Dannie; Bailey, Katie
Subject: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

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I've copied Dannie Suber for scheduling.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

From: [Director of OGE](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [Director of OGE](#); [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: RE: Meeting
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:23:05 PM

Thanks for the phone call earlier, Shelley. I'm just adding Diana to this message.

Diana, we have an agreement in principle, but the date is actually TBD. Danielle Bryan had indicated in her conversation with me that the Chairman was eager to come to agreement before the Sunday morning TV shows, and tonight the Chairman's staffer confirmed that he's going on Stephanopolous (spelling?). We wanted to be helpful and try to accommodate his desire to come to an agreement before his TV appearance on the alternative plan he had initiated after sending his letter, so we agreed in principle but we still have some coordinating to do in order to figure out a workable date given the transition work that we're doing. Let me know your availability for the week after this coming one, in case we need some support.

There's two confusing things, but they may not need to be sorted out.

First is the statement by his staff that he wanted the letter he sent me to be withheld from the public. We were not the ones who released the letter, at least as far as Shelley or I know. Given that Chairman Chaffetz spoke to the press about his letter before sending it to us, I had assumed he was the one who released the letter. But he copied the ranking member on the letter, so maybe the minority released it. Shelley explained to the Chairman's staffer that a letter between two public institutions is not something we would have withheld from a FOIA response. It's not clear why the staffer raised this issue, but it seems like a non-issue because they didn't sound like they're blaming us. All the same, please just double-check on whether anyone released the letter for some reason? If so, we can follow up with the Chairman's staff to just let them know.

During Shelley's call, the Chairman's staffer didn't bring up that bizarre claim that we declined to meet with them in December. I told Danielle that we have emails corroborating the fact that the Chairman is the one who cancelled the meeting planned for 2:30 on the House's last day in session. I explained that his staffer even sent us a message explaining that he was on the floor at 2:30 and had a "hard stop" for a flight. Maybe Danielle passed on the word that we have emails and that news jogged their memory, or showed we could prove it. Please have your folks keep an eye on the news. Let me know if they repeat that incorrect claim to the press again. We'll need to decide whether to respond to correct the record if they keep repeating it. If they don't repeat it, I'm willing to forgive and forget. There's too many incorrect stories floating around out there to run around correcting all of them.

Thanks!

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.

Director

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292

Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Director of OGE
Subject: Meeting

Walt -

I spoke to Chairman Chaffetz's Chief of Staff and she provided the following details about the meeting being offered in lieu of the closed-door, transcribed interview:

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She indicated that they would like to de-escalate. She also indicated that the Chairman's letter was not intended to be made public, but did not suggest that we had made it public.

In addition, she agreed that there would be a staff-level conference call with HOCR majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting. I will provide a written summary of our understanding to both the majority and minority staff points of contact. I will also relay that the date does not work for you.

Thanks,
Shelley

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To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [Director of OGE](#); [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: RE: Meeting
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:23:05 PM

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Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
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Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Director of OGE
Subject: Meeting

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Thanks,
Shelley

From: [Diana Veilleux](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [Director of OGE](#)
Subject: Re: Meeting
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 5:18:32 AM

Good Morning

No one released the letter from our end as far as I know. I did not give a copy of it to anyone other than the two of you and Dave when we were all reading it together on Thursday evening. I am available the week after next as needed; my schedule is clearable. Will keep an eye on the news.

Diana

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Director of OGE
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:23 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson; Director of OGE; Diana Veilleux
Subject: RE: Meeting

Thanks for the phone call earlier, Shelley. I'm just adding Diana to this message.

Diana, we have an agreement in principle, but the date is actually TBD. Danielle Bryan had indicated in her conversation with me that the Chairman was eager to come to agreement before the Sunday morning TV shows, and tonight the Chairman's staffer confirmed that he's going on Stephanopolous (spelling?). We wanted to be helpful and try to accommodate his desire to come to an agreement before his TV appearance on the alternative plan he had initiated after sending his letter, so we agreed in principle but we still have some coordinating to do in order to figure out a workable date given the transition work that we're doing. Let me know your availability for the week after this coming one, in case we need some support.

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Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

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To: Director of OGE
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Thanks,
Shelley

From: [Skladany, Jon](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#); [Boyd, Krista](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 1:29:04 PM

I'm available at 2:00

On Jan 15, 2017, at 1:24 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

All -

I have spoken to the Director so we can go forward with the 2pm call if everyone is still free.

Shelley

From: Hemingway, Jennifer
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 11:07 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Boyd, Krista; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Hi Shelley,

Let's wait until you have a better sense of times that work well for Director Shaub. We can then look to schedule our call.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 15, 2017, at 8:44 AM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

Yes, I can do 2, but cannot be assured that I will have connected with the Director to have alternative dates by then, so a later time might be preferable. I am available this afternoon/evening and tomorrow.

Shelley

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Boyd, Krista
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:54 PM
To: Hemingway, Jennifer
Cc: Shelley K. Finlayson; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Yes, I can do a call at 2 p.m. tomorrow or any time on Monday.

On Jan 14, 2017, at 8:19 PM, Hemingway, Jennifer
<(b)(6) contact info > wrote:

Hi Shelley,

Thanks for your email, and for reaching out to Director Shaub. We will let the Chairman know that staff level discussions continue, which he will appreciate.

Re a staff call, Jon and I should be available almost anytime. Could we plan for Sunday (tomorrow), perhaps at 2 pm? We can circulate a conference line. Krista are you free?

If we are looking at dates other than Jan 23, there is a possibility the meeting may last beyond 90 minutes. We can discuss this during our call as we confirm the specifics of the meeting in response to the Chairman's request.

It would also be helpful to know what other dates are possible if Director Shaub has a conflict on Jan 23.

Sincerely,
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Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2017, at 7:09 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson
<skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

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The Director has agreed in concept to the meeting as described above, but will need to discuss other possible dates.

I have included Krista Boyd on this email so she is aware of the status.

Please let me know best days and times for the staff level call.

Thanks,
Shelley

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From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Boyd, Krista](#); [Skladany, Jon](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 11:07:25 AM

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Cc: [Boyd, Krista](#); [Skladany, Jon](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 8:18:54 PM

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From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 1:51:49 PM

Sounds good.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2017, at 1:51 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

Great. How about 3:15?

From: Hemingway, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Re: Questions

Hi Shelley,

I'm happy to help. My cell is (b)(6) contact

Should we connect today? I'll be checked out of the grocery store in about 20 min.

Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2017, at 1:14 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

Hi Jennifer -

I'm spoke to Krista Boyd of Ranking Member Cummings' staff yesterday and have some questions about the details she relayed. Are you the correct point of contact for Chairman Chaffetz? If not, can you please put me in touch with the correct POC?

Thanks,
Shelley

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From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 1:18:00 PM

Hi Shelley,

I'm happy to help. My cell is (b)(6) contact

Should we connect today? I'll be checked out of the grocery store in about 20 min.

Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2017, at 1:14 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

Hi Jennifer -

I'm spoke to Krista Boyd of Ranking Member Cummings' staff yesterday and have some questions about the details she relayed. Are you the correct point of contact for Chairman Chaffetz? If not, can you please put me in touch with the correct POC?

Thanks,
Shelley

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From: [Skladany, Jon](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#); [Boyd, Krista](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Monday, January 16, 2017 9:43:11 AM

Hi Shelley,

The Chairman is not able to accommodate the Director's request for a public event at that time. Please let us know if the Director will meet with the Chairman and Ranking Member under the concept that you described below.

Thanks,

Jon

On Jan 15, 2017, at 2:40 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

All -

Thanks for the call. As we discussed, the Director is agreeing to the date and time originally offered (January 23 at 4 pm) for a meeting as described below; however, he is requesting that the meeting be open to the public. He is not refusing to attend if it is not open to the public, but is requesting that it be open to the public.

Thanks again,

Shelley

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Hemingway, Jennifer
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Skladany, Jon; Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Boyd, Krista
Subject: RE: Questions

Me, too. I just sent a revised calendar invitation so folks would have it handy.

From: Skladany, Jon
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Hemingway, Jennifer; Boyd, Krista
Subject: Re: Questions

I'm available at 2:00

On Jan 15, 2017, at 1:24 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

All -

I have spoken to the Director so we can go forward with the 2pm call if everyone is still free.

Shelley

From: Hemingway, Jennifer
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 11:07 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Boyd, Krista; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Hi Shelley,

Let's wait until you have a better sense of times that work well for Director Shaub. We can then look to schedule our call.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 15, 2017, at 8:44 AM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

Yes, I can do 2, but cannot be assured that I will have connected with the Director to have alternative dates by then, so a later time might be preferable. I am available this afternoon/evening and tomorrow.

Shelley

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Boyd, Krista
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:54 PM
To: Hemingway, Jennifer
Cc: Shelley K. Finlayson; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Yes, I can do a call at 2 p.m. tomorrow or any time on Monday.

On Jan 14, 2017, at 8:19 PM, Hemingway, Jennifer <(b)(6) contact info > wrote:

Hi Shelley,

Thanks for your email, and for reaching out to Director Shaub. We will let the Chairman know that staff level discussions continue, which he will appreciate.

Re a staff call, Jon and I should be available almost anytime. Could we plan for Sunday (tomorrow), perhaps at 2 pm? We can circulate a conference line. Krista are you free?

If we are looking at dates other than Jan 23, there is a possibility the meeting may last beyond 90 minutes. We can discuss this during our call as we confirm the specifics of the meeting in response to the Chairman's request.

It would also be helpful to know what other dates are possible if Director Shaub has a conflict on Jan 23.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2017, at 7:09 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson
<skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

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Thanks for the call today. I spoke to OGE's Director this evening. I relayed the following details from our conversation about the meeting being offered in lieu of the closed-door, transcribed interview:

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In addition, there will be a staff-level conference call with HOCR majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting.

The Director has agreed in concept to the

meeting as described above, but will need to discuss other possible dates.

I have included Krista Boyd on this email so she is aware of the status.

Please let me know best days and times for the staff level call.

Thanks,
Shelley

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From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Skladany, Jon](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Boyd, Krista](#)
Subject: RE: Questions
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 1:30:18 PM

Me, too. I just sent a revised calendar invitation so folks would have it handy.

From: Skladany, Jon
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Hemingway, Jennifer; Boyd, Krista
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I'm available at 2:00

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I have spoken to the Director so we can go forward with the 2pm call if everyone is still free.

Shelley

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Cc: Boyd, Krista; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Hi Shelley,

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Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

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Yes, I can do 2, but cannot be assured that I will have connected with the Director to have alternative dates by then, so a later time might be preferable. I am available this afternoon/evening and tomorrow.

Shelley

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Boyd, Krista
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:54 PM
To: Hemingway, Jennifer
Cc: Shelley K. Finlayson; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Yes, I can do a call at 2 p.m. tomorrow or any time on Monday.

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(b)(6) contact info > wrote:

Hi Shelley,

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Re a staff call, Jon and I should be available almost anytime. Could we plan for Sunday (tomorrow), perhaps at 2 pm? We can circulate a conference line. Krista are you free?

If we are looking at dates other than Jan 23, there is a possibility the meeting may last beyond 90 minutes. We can discuss this during our call as we confirm the specifics of the meeting in response to the Chairman's request.

It would also be helpful to know what other dates are possible if Director Shaub has a conflict on Jan 23.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

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transcribed other than staff taking notes. The meeting is scheduled to last no longer than 90 minutes. The meeting will focus on OGE's public outreach activities and potential reauthorization. The meeting will not be under oath. The requested meeting date and time is Monday, January 23 from 4-5:30 pm.

In addition, there will be a staff-level conference call with HOCR majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting.

The Director has agreed in concept to the meeting as described above, but will need to discuss other possible dates.

I have included Krista Boyd on this email so she is aware of the status.

Please let me know best days and times for the staff level call.

Thanks,
Shelley

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From: [Boyd, Krista](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 2:00:16 PM

I'm free - on the call.

On Jan 15, 2017, at 1:24 PM, Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov> wrote:

All -

I have spoken to the Director so we can go forward with the 2pm call if everyone is still free.
Shelley

From: Hemingway, Jennifer
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 11:07 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Boyd, Krista; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Hi Shelley,

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Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

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Shelley

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Boyd, Krista
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:54 PM
To: Hemingway, Jennifer
Cc: Shelley K. Finlayson; Skladany, Jon
Subject: Re: Questions

Yes, I can do a call at 2 p.m. tomorrow or any time on Monday.

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It would also be helpful to know what other dates are possible if Director Shaub has a conflict on Jan 23.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

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In addition, there will be a staff-level conference call with HOCR

majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting.

The Director has agreed in concept to the meeting as described above, but will need to discuss other possible dates.

I have included Krista Boyd on this email so she is aware of the status.

Please let me know best days and times for the staff level call.

Thanks,
Shelley

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From: [Diana Veilleux](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [Director of OGE](#)
Subject: Re: Meeting
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 5:18:32 AM

Good Morning

No one released the letter from our end as far as I know. I did not give a copy of it to anyone other than the two of you and Dave when we were all reading it together on Thursday evening. I am available the week after next as needed; my schedule is clearable. Will keep an eye on the news.

Diana

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Director of OGE
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:23 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson; Director of OGE; Diana Veilleux
Subject: RE: Meeting

Thanks for the phone call earlier, Shelley. I'm just adding Diana to this message.

Diana, we have an agreement in principle, but the date is actually TBD. Danielle Bryan had indicated in her conversation with me that the Chairman was eager to come to agreement before the Sunday morning TV shows, and tonight the Chairman's staffer confirmed that he's going on Stephanopolous (spelling?). We wanted to be helpful and try to accommodate his desire to come to an agreement before his TV appearance on the alternative plan he had initiated after sending his letter, so we agreed in principle but we still have some coordinating to do in order to figure out a workable date given the transition work that we're doing. Let me know your availability for the week after this coming one, in case we need some support.

There's two confusing things, but they may not need to be sorted out.

First is the statement by his staff that he wanted the letter he sent me to be withheld from the public. We were not the ones who released the letter, at least as far as Shelley or I know. Given that Chairman Chaffetz spoke to the press about his letter before sending it to us, I had assumed he was the one who released the letter. But he copied the ranking member on the letter, so maybe the minority released it. Shelley explained to the Chairman's staffer that a letter between two public institutions is not something we would have withheld from a FOIA response. It's not clear why the staffer raised this issue, but it seems like a non-issue because they didn't sound like they're blaming us. All the same, please just double-check on whether anyone released the letter for some reason? If so, we can follow up with the Chairman's staff to just let them know.

During Shelley's call, the Chairman's staffer didn't bring up that bizarre claim that we declined to meet with them in December. I told Danielle that we have emails corroborating the fact that the Chairman is the one who cancelled the meeting planned for 2:30 on the House's last day in session. I explained that his staffer even sent us a message explaining that he was on the floor at 2:30 and had a "hard stop" for a flight. Maybe Danielle passed on the word that we have emails and that news jogged their memory, or showed we could prove it. Please have your folks keep an eye on the news. Let me know if they repeat that incorrect claim to the press again. We'll need to decide whether to respond to correct the record if they keep repeating it. If they don't repeat it, I'm willing to forgive and forget. There's too many incorrect stories floating around out there to run around correcting all of them.

Thanks!

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Director of OGE
Subject: Meeting
Walt -

I spoke to Chairman Chaffetz's Chief of Staff and she provided the following details about the meeting being offered in lieu of the closed-door, transcribed interview:

The event is a meeting in a conference room with the Chairman and Ranking Member and their staff present, in addition to the Director of OGE and his chosen attendees. The Chairman, Ranking Member, and their respective staff may ask questions. The meeting will not be recorded or transcribed other than staff taking notes. The meeting is scheduled to last no longer than 90 minutes. The meeting will focus on OGE's public outreach activities and potential reauthorization. The meeting will not be under oath. The proposed meeting date and time is Monday, January 23 from 4-5:30 pm.

She indicated that they would like to de-escalate. She also indicated that the Chairman's letter was not intended to be made public, but did not suggest that we had made it public.

In addition, she agreed that there would be a staff-level conference call with HOCR majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting. I will provide a written summary of our understanding to both the majority and minority staff points of contact. I will also relay that the date does not work for you.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: [Matthew A. Marinec](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: Scheduling
Date: Thursday, December 08, 2016 1:49:37 PM

Chairman Chaffetz's scheduler told me:

The Chairman requested that I pass on the message that he is disturbed and disappointed that we weren't able to make this happen. We'll have to come back to this in January to see if we can make something work.

To this, I quickly reminded her of our conversation yesterday whereby the ball was in her court as to whether or not the Chairman was amenable to a phone call next week as opposed to an in-person meeting for 12/8.

I reminded her again that I never once declined an in-person meeting. In fact, yesterday she asked me point blank if we were declining an in-person meeting, to which I responded no, but that we wanted to explore the option of a call on Monday, 12/12. I also reminded her that 2:30 pm 12/8 was one of her initial offerings, and one that was never declined by us and never taken off of the table by her.

I was eagerly standing by for her response. After respectfully waiting until 1:00 pm today, I called her and upon our exchange had above conversation.

Thanks,

Matthew Marinec, M.P.P.
Confidential Assistant to the Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Tel. 202.482.9286

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

- Saturday, December 3 – email requesting a meeting between the Chairman and the Director
- Monday, December 5 called his Chief of Staff to request information about the meeting
- Tuesday, December 6 – his COS returned my call
- Mat has phone tag with scheduler and Thursday at 2:30 looks like only option that may work. We offer the following Monday. This is his summary of those exchanges:

The Chairman requested that I pass on the message that he is disturbed and disappointed that we weren't able to make this happen. We'll have to come back to this in January to see if we can make something work.

To this, I quickly reminded her of our conversation yesterday whereby the ball was in her court as to whether or not the Chairman was amenable to a phone call next week as opposed to an in-person meeting for 12/8.

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I was eagerly standing by for her response. After respectfully waiting until 1:00 pm today, I called her and upon our exchange had above conversation.

- I email his COS when they suggest we are declining a meeting and stop answering our calls the day of the proposed meeting.

From: Shelley K. Finlayson [<mailto:skfinlay@oge.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Hemingway, Jennifer
Subject: RE: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

Hi Jennifer –

The Director's scheduler just indicated that we are uncertain based on his exchange with the Chairman's scheduler about whether we are on for a 2:30 meeting or not. I understand that he was waiting to hear back about the possibility of a call on Monday, but did not. The Director is available for a meeting today if the Chairman would still like to meet in person. Please let me know if the Director is expected at 2:30.

Thanks,

Shelley

- We wait (up at the Hill) and continue to call with no one answering.
- I receive the following message from his COS the next day (Friday, December 9)

Hi Shelley,

I'm sorry to have missed this yesterday. We were on the floor with bills/votes and the Chairman's scheduled was backed up with a hard stop for a return flight home.

I believe Dannie is working to schedule the in person meeting for January.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Suber, Dannie](#); [Bailey, Katie](#)
Subject: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz
Date: Saturday, December 03, 2016 1:27:51 PM

Shelly,

Chairman Chaffetz would like to meet with Director Schaub by Thursday, December 7.

I've copied Dannie Suber for scheduling.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

From: [Matthew A. Marinec](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: Scheduling
Date: Thursday, December 08, 2016 1:49:37 PM

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Thanks,

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Confidential Assistant to the Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Tel. 202.482.9286

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [Hemingway, Jennifer](#)
To: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Subject: RE: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz
Date: Friday, December 09, 2016 9:00:21 AM

Hi Shelley,

I'm sorry to have missed this yesterday. We were on the floor with bills/votes and the Chairman's scheduled was backed up with a hard stop for a return flight home.

I believe Dannie is working to schedule the in person meeting for January.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

From: Shelley K. Finlayson [mailto:skfinlay@oge.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Hemingway, Jennifer
Subject: RE: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

Hi Jennifer –

The Director's scheduler just indicated that we are uncertain based on his exchange with the Chairman's scheduler about whether we are on for a 2:30 meeting or not. I understand that he was waiting to hear back about the possibility of a call on Monday, but did not. The Director is available for a meeting today if the Chairman would still like to meet in person. Please let me know if the Director is expected at 2:30.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: Hemingway, Jennifer [mailto:(b)(6) contact info]
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2016 1:28 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Suber, Dannie; Bailey, Katie
Subject: Meeting request - Chairman Chaffetz

Shelly,

Chairman Chaffetz would like to meet with Director Schaub by Thursday, December 7.

I've copied Dannie Suber for scheduling.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

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From: [Diana Veilleux](#)
To: [Jennifer Matis](#)
Subject: FOIA response
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 3:14:16 PM

Hi Jen

I found this one in my sent.

Diana J. Veilleux

Diana J. Veilleux
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From: Diana Veilleux
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 5:19 AM
To: Director of OGE; Shelley K. Finlayson; Director of OGE
Subject: Re: Meeting

Good Morning

No one released the letter from our end as far as I know. I did not give a copy of it to anyone other than the two of you and Dave when we were all reading it together on Thursday evening. I am available the week after next as needed; my schedule is clearable. Will keep an eye on the news.

Diana

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Director of OGE
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:23 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson; Director of OGE; Diana Veilleux
Subject: RE: Meeting

Thanks for the phone call earlier, Shelley. I'm just adding Diana to this message.

Diana, we have an agreement in principle, but the date is actually TBD. Danielle Bryan had indicated in her conversation with me that the Chairman was eager to come to agreement before the Sunday morning TV shows, and tonight the Chairman's staffer confirmed that he's going on Stephanopolous (spelling?). We wanted to be helpful and try to accommodate his desire to come to an agreement before his TV appearance on the alternative plan he had initiated after sending his letter, so we

agreed in principle but we still have some coordinating to do in order to figure out a workable date given the transition work that we're doing. Let me know your availability for the week after this coming one, in case we need some support.

There's two confusing things, but they may not need to be sorted out.

First is the statement by his staff that he wanted the letter he sent me to be withheld from the public. We were not the ones who released the letter, at least as far as Shelley or I know. Given that Chairman Chaffetz spoke to the press about his letter before sending it to us, I had assumed he was the one who released the letter. But he copied the ranking member on the letter, so maybe the minority released it. Shelley explained to the Chairman's staffer that a letter between two public institutions is not something we would have withheld from a FOIA response. It's not clear why the staffer raised this issue, but it seems like a non-issue because they didn't sound like they're blaming us. All the same, please just double-check on whether anyone released the letter for some reason? If so, we can follow up with the Chairman's staff to just let them know.

During Shelley's call, the Chairman's staffer didn't bring up that bizarre claim that we declined to meet with them in December. I told Danielle that we have emails corroborating the fact that the Chairman is the one who cancelled the meeting planned for 2:30 on the House's last day in session. I explained that his staffer even sent us a message explaining that he was on the floor at 2:30 and had a "hard stop" for a flight. Maybe Danielle passed on the word that we have emails and that news jogged their memory, or showed we could prove it. Please have your folks keep an eye on the news. Let me know if they repeat that incorrect claim to the press again. We'll need to decide whether to respond to correct the record if they keep repeating it. If they don't repeat it, I'm willing to forgive and forget. There's too many incorrect stories floating around out there to run around correcting all of them.

Thanks!

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
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Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Director of OGE
Subject: Meeting

Walt -

I spoke to Chairman Chaffetz's Chief of Staff and she provided the following details about the

meeting being offered in lieu of the closed-door, transcribed interview:

The event is a meeting in a conference room with the Chairman and Ranking Member and their staff present, in addition to the Director of OGE and his chosen attendees. The Chairman, Ranking Member, and their respective staff may ask questions. The meeting will not be recorded or transcribed other than staff taking notes. The meeting is scheduled to last no longer than 90 minutes. The meeting will focus on OGE's public outreach activities and potential reauthorization. The meeting will not be under oath. The proposed meeting date and time is Monday, January 23 from 4-5:30 pm.

She indicated that they would like to de-escalate. She also indicated that the Chairman's letter was not intended to be made public, but did not suggest that we had made it public.

In addition, she agreed that there would be a staff-level conference call with HOCR majority and minority staff and OGE staff no later than Tuesday to ensure that we all have the same understanding of the meeting. I will provide a written summary of our understanding to both the majority and minority staff points of contact. I will also relay that the date does not work for you.

Thanks,
Shelley