



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 24 2014

OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
AND RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

Karen Kellen
President
AFGE Council 238
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

Dear Ms. Kellen:

You recently contacted the Administrator regarding her June 24, 2014 testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and shared AFGE's reaction based on news reporting of the hearing. I am following-up with you to ensure her testimony and responses to member questions were fully understood.

The Administrator believes it is in the public interest to ensure that the agency moves swiftly to initiate corrective action against any employee, including managers, found to have engaged in wrongdoing or who have failed to exercise due diligence in oversight. The Administrator completely agrees with AFGE that all employees should be held to high standards of accountability and honesty. Agency steps taken in recent months to improve internal controls over administrative processes will advance those goals.

Eliminating waste, fraud and abuse perpetrated by employees or managers, while not the norm at EPA, is critically important to me and to the Administrator. As the Administrator indicated in her June testimony, "I believe it is my obligation to provide the leadership and stewardship needed to ensure we grow the kind of organization that the dedicated, hardworking, professional public servants at EPA deserve: I am proud of them, and I want each of them to be proud of EPA."

Finally, the Administrator also takes very seriously the integrity of due process protections afforded to all employees in the case of removals and other disciplinary actions. The agency is taking no steps to interfere with these important protections.

I thank you for AFGE's partnership in making the agency effective, efficient and accountable. If you have any questions regarding our joint work, please contact me at (202) 564-4600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig E. Hooks".

Craig E. Hooks
Assistant Administrator



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