

# *Non-Trivial Pruitt Questions*

## A Question of Ethics

- P** Polluters Run Wild
- R** Recruiting Lobbyists
- U** Unethical Behavior
- I** Increasing Pollution
- T** Taxpayer Money Wasted
- T** Taking Perks

# Polluting Policies

**P**

EPA proposed a loophole for super-polluting glider trucks, citing an industry-funded study now being investigated for research misconduct. Will it withdraw the proposal?

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**R**

Will EPA's new #2 official, former coal and energy lobbyist Andrew Wheeler, be granted any waivers from his ethics pledge or other restrictions on helping former clients?

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**U**

Does Pruitt agree with EPA air chief William Wehrum that the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, which protect children from serious harm, may not be "necessary"?

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**I**

Why did Pruitt appoint Kell Kelly, a disgraced former banker friend with no relevant experience, to oversee cleanups of toxic Superfund sites?

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**T**

Why did Pruitt try to end EPA funding for Justice Department Superfund enforcement efforts, and cut EPA enforcement against criminal polluters?

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**T**

Why hasn't Pruitt finalized the ban on methylene chloride, linked to numerous deaths? Is Nancy Beck, who came to EPA from the chemical industry's lobby arm, involved?

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## Pruitt's Condo Deal

**P**

Did Pruitt consult any EPA ethics officials to review the ethical issues involved before renting an apartment from the wife of a prominent energy lobbyist?

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**R**

On the condo lease, why was lobbyist Stephen Hart's name originally typed in as "landlord," but then scratched out and the name of his wife scribbled in?

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**U**

Who at EPA contacted Justina Fugh, the EPA's senior counsel for ethics, at a movie theater to ask her for a statement to clear the condo deal?

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**I**

Why were EPA ethics officials only asked to review the lease, and not other uses of the condo, like using the kitchen and letting his daughter stay there?

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**T**

Does Pruitt's chronically late payment of rent on the condo constitute a gift under federal ethics rules?

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**T**

Did an EPA staffer spend weeks helping Pruitt search for an apartment, contacting agents and touring properties? Was this done on government time?

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## Who is “Kell” Kelly?

**P**

What did Superfund head “Kell” Kelly do to be banned for life from banking by the FDIC?

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**R**

Did Pruitt inquire about Kelly’s conduct was when he hired Kelly? Was he concerned about it?

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**U**

Before Kelly was hired, did EPA ethics officials review the three mortgage loans given to Pruitt and his wife: one for \$81,000, another for \$359,000, and a third for \$533,000?

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**I**

What was Kelly’s involvement in his bank’s loans to Pruitt to help buy a share of the Oklahoma City RedHawks, a minor league baseball team?

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**T**

How did these loans to Pruitt square with his bank’s normal lending standards?

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**T**

When Pruitt as attorney general made Oklahoma the only state to reject federal assistance to provide more than \$10 million to help housing foreclosure victims, did he seek advice from Kelly?

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## Trip to Morocco

**P**

Whose idea was it that Pruitt travel to Morocco in December 2017 to promote natural gas, which is not the EPA's job?

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**R**

Why was Pruitt's only pre-trip briefing conducted by political staff, instead of career staff in the agency's international affairs office, which usually coordinates foreign trips?

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**U**

Who from the natural gas industry did Pruitt discuss the trip with?

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**I**

Were materials or expertise used from Devon Energy, which donated six figure sums to Pruitt's Oklahoma campaigns and national electioneering groups?

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**T**

In Morocco, did Pruitt mention Cheniere Energy Inc., which is owned by Donald Trump's friend Carl Icahn—who helped vet Pruitt for the EPA job?

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**T**

Why was it necessary for the EPA to spend a reported \$40,000 to take 10 staffers on a two-day trip with two one-hour public meetings?

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## Pruitt in Oklahoma

**P**

Why did Pruitt use a shell company registered to buy an Oklahoma City home with a view of the state capitol for \$420,000?

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**R**

Why did the seller, with a firm hired by telecom giant SBC Oklahoma, sell to one of Pruitt's associates for a full \$100,000 less than what was paid a year earlier, after listing it for just a couple of weeks on the market?

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**U**

Did Pruitt violate state ethics rules by not listing the shell company in his financial disclosure filings in Oklahoma?

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**I**

As Oklahoma Attorney General, why did Pruitt not reimburse taxpayers for a January 2016 trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with conservative political groups?

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**T**

Why did Pruitt use licensed law enforcement investigators to drive him 90 miles each day to and from his Tulsa home and his Oklahoma City office?

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**T**

Why, as state budgets were being cut, did Pruitt move to a building that charged 70 percent more than his current office?

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## Raises for EPA Staff

**P**

Why did Pruitt tell Fox News he had no knowledge of raises given to two staffers he brought from Oklahoma when an EPA Inspector General report now shows that Pruitt signed off on them?

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**R**

Was Pruitt briefed on how to use the Safe Water Drinking Act to approve the raises against the objections of the White House?

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**U**

The White House says “the president would expect all members of his Cabinet to be honest and certainly open with the public.”  
What action will the White House now take?

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**I**

What specifically did the former Oklahoma staffers do to merit raises of \$56,765 and \$28,130, respectively?

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**T**

Why did Pruitt’s Chief of Staff sign “Ryan Jackson for Scott Pruitt” on Pruitt’s stationary for raises for six other employees under the Safe Water Drinking Act?

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**T**

Did Jackson have Pruitt’s advance permission or other legal authority to approve the raises?

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## First-Class Travel

**P**

Did Pruitt seek have the EPA pay a \$100,000 per month to rent a private jet, as his former deputy chief of staff told Congress?

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**R**

If Pruitt needs to fly first class for security reasons, why did he fly coach on personal trips home to see Oklahoma football games—when taxpayer money couldn't pay his way?

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**U**

Did Pruitt sometimes pick travel destinations based on his personal desires, and ask his staff to “find me something to do” to justify the use of taxpayer funds?

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**I**

Did Pruitt ask staff to find reasons for him to travel home to Oklahoma on long weekends, including “official” meetings with old friends?

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**T**

Did Pruitt personally approve a first-class ticket for aide Samantha Dravis to fly with him on his return trip from Morocco, without legal justification?

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**T**

With a 24/7 job and under multiple investigations for his travel and other practices, why did Pruitt visit the Mascot Hall of Fame on April 19?

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## Potpourri

**P**

OMB Director Mick Mulvaney will probe Pruitt's \$43,500 phone booth, which the GAO says violated federal law. When are criminal charges filed under this law?

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**R**

EPA chose the most expensive bid to build the phone booth faster, and top aides asked several times to hurry it up. What specifically had happened to require such speed?

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**U**

Pruitt's chief of staff, Ryan Jackson, reportedly "raised questions about Mr. Pruitt's spending." What were his concerns?

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**I**

Why did Pruitt need to spend \$2,075 to refurbish "an oversize desk with ornate woodworking" and purchase a brown maple wood stand-up desk, with brass locks from a craftsmen?

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**T**

How often has Pruitt's driver activated his vehicle's emergency lights and siren to reach destinations like the restaurant Le Diplomate?

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**T**

After media allegations were published that EPA staffer Samantha Dravis provided internal EPA information to White House staffer Rob Porter, did the EPA investigate?

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