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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

October 23, 2017

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Inspector General Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Inspector General
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2410T)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Inspector General Elkins:

I am writing to request that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of the Inspector General initiate an investigation into a recent *New York Times* report detailing political interference, suppression of science, and prioritization of industry recommendations over public health in EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, and throughout the agency at large.

Specifically, I urge you to investigate reports of:

- The suppression of science relating to the public health impacts of toxic and dangerous chemicals;
- The use of "administratively determined" hiring practices, and the extent to which these practices are used to circumvent EPA's ethics or conflict of interest standards; and
- Deference to industry requests, rather than scientific and technical analysis, in the context of the agency's rulemaking process.

EPA's chemical safety work is essential to protecting human health in a society where interaction with chemicals is both pervasive and unavoidable. The public has the right to know whether EPA employees are working on their behalf, or the behalf of industries the agency purports to regulate. Thank you for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator