**CAC Message Guidance: Funding Cuts to EPA’s Inspector General**

* EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is facing several investigations for misuse of taxpayer funds and illegal lobbying. But the EPA Inspector General’s office said that it won’t be able to expand its investigation into Pruitt’s luxury travel due to a lack of funding and staff.
* Last year, the EPA Inspector General’s office asked the Trump administration for a funding increase. Instead, the Trump administration proposed slashing the watchdog agency by nearly $4 million dollars.
* Dramatic cuts to the Inspector General’s office would decimate its ability to investigate ethical lapses and improper conduct, including its current investigations into Pruitt's frequent travel to his home state of Oklahoma, his $40,000 trip to Morocco to advocate for the oil and gas industry, and, most recently, his extensive first class flights.
* That’s why a compromised and ineffective Inspector General’s office is music to Pruitt’s ears. Pruitt has diligently tried to conceal his dirty dealings and wasteful spending. That’s why he spent nearly $25,000 in taxpayer funds to install a secret phone booth in his private office and refuses to publicly release his meeting and travel schedules, breaking with decades of bipartisan precedent.
* Pruitt is acting like he has something to hide. That’s because he does. He doesn’t want the American people to know the full extent of his luxurious travel on U.S. taxpayers’ dime. And now the EPA’s internal watchdog, the Inspector General, will have fewer resources to ensure compliance with the law.