**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: NAME

RE: Timeline of Scott Pruitt’s Excuses for His Lavish Travel

DATE DATE

This week, news broke that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt was lavishly traveling on the taxpayer dime. As bipartisan condemnation grew, Pruitt kept changing his story, desperately trying different excuses. None have stuck because the truth is far simpler: Scott Pruitt misused taxpayer dollars in a big way.

**Here are all the different stories Scott Pruitt used to excuse his alarming and expensive first class travel:**

**Sunday, February 11th**: **“EPA staff seek cost-efficient travel options at all times.”**

* [EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/first-class-travel-distinguishes-scott-pruitts-epa-tenure/2018/02/11/5bb89afc-0b7d-11e8-8b0d-891602206fb7_story.html?utm_term=.9b8f78346148) tells the *Washington Post* that “EPA staff seek cost-efficient travel options at all times” and that all his travel is approved by federal ethics officials.
* When asked about the administrator’s June trip to New York, in which he flew first class, Bowman says, “He’s communicating the message about his agenda and the president’s agenda.” Yes, their agenda is propagating their culture of corruption.

**Tuesday, February 13th: “He has a blanket waiver to fly in first or business class."**

* Pruitt, through a spokesman, says he “[has a blanket waiver to fly in first or business class](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/epas-scott-pruitt-got-waiver-to-fly-business-class-on-non-u-s-carrier-from-italy-to-u-s/).” Pruitt also flew on a non-U.S. carrier, Emirates, because it was the only airline to get him back in time for a June 12th cabinet meeting.
* Pruitt [tells *New Hampshire Union Leader*](http://www.unionleader.com/politics/epas-scott-pruitt-flies-1st-class-to-talk-superfund-in-nh-20180213) he flew first class because “unfortunately...we’ve had some incidents on travel dating back to when I first started serving in the March-April timeframe.” “We live in a very toxic environment politically, particularly around issues of the environment.”

**Wednesday, February 14t**h: **“For every trip, Administrator Pruitt submits a waiver.”**

* Ignoring the brewing controversy, Pruitt penned an op-ed in [*USA TODAY*](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/02/14/clean-air-land-and-water-time-epa-start-keeping-its-promises-column/333815002/), touting his “successes” on Superfund sites. He doesn’t address his expensive, first class travels.
* EPA retracts its story that Administrator Pruitt had a blanket waiver after [*POLITICO*](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/02/14/scott-pruitt-first-class-travel-347631) informed them that such waivers are not allowed. They amend saying “for every trip Administrator Pruitt submits a waiver to fly in either first or business class."
* [CBS correspondent Julianna Goldman tweets](https://twitter.com/juliannagoldman/status/963867491750563841) that EPA ethic officials said “it’s inaccurate to say federal ethics officials approved” Pruitt’s travel. When Goldman asked who in fact approved it, EPA refused to specify, saying it “was granted through a variety of different offices via the general counsel's office.”

**Thursday, February 15th**: **They were “yelling at him ‘Scott Pruitt, you’re f---ing up the environment.’”**

* EPA’s Office of Criminal Enforcement [Henry Barnet tells *POLITICO*](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/02/15/scott-pruitt-first-class-travel-epa-351669), “He was approached in the airport numerous times, to the point of profanities being yelled at him and so forth.”
* Barnet says Pruitt’s team thought “it would be better suited to have him in business or first class, away from close proximity from those individuals who were approaching him and being extremely rude…”
* EPA’s independent Office of Inspector General, which investigates threats against Pruitt, said Pruitt received zero threats related to his air travel.