**Scott Pruitt Admits Misuse of Government Resources and Confirms He's Set up a Legal Defense Fund**

In his May 16th testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, embattled Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt, who has already broken the law for unauthorized spending on a secret phone booth, repeatedly lied to Congress when asked about the ethical scandals surrounding his security detail and housing arrangements.

* Pruitt is under at least 16 separate federal investigations for violating ethics rules, abusing taxpayer funds, and breaking federal law. He has spent millions of dollars on first class flights and luxury travel, personal staff and office upgrades, and unprecedented 24 hour personal security.
* Given Scott Pruitt’s well documented history of abusing his position as a public servant, it’s no surprise he’s setting up a legal defense fund to cover the cost of the first class criminal defense attorney he recently hired in the wake of increased public scrutiny.
* Pruitt’s focus on protecting himself instead of average Americans is nothing new. His legal defense fund has been set up the same way he runs his agency – in secret and dependent on outside corporate interests.
* Pruitt has still failed to properly notify Congress about the $43,000 custom secrecy booth he installed in his personal office. Yesterday, he admitted he didn’t pay an EPA staffer for time she spent searching for an apartment, a potential misuse of funds. And he has repeatedly lied to Congress. Lying to Congress, even if you’re not under oath, is a felony.
* In his latest hearing, Pruitt’s lies to Congress continued, with at least four different instances where he contradicted existing documents:
1. **Pruitt claimed that the industry lobbyist Steven Hart, who cut him a sweetheart deal on a luxury D.C. condo, was not registered as a lobbyist in 2017 and did not have business before the EPA.** Both are demonstrably false: [lobbying disclosure reports show](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/20/pruitt-condo-lobbyist-leaving-firm-543508) that Hart did indeed have clients with business before the EPA, and [met with Pruitt about those clients](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/21/climate/pruitt-hart-condo-epa-lobbying.html). He also lobbied Pruitt to help secure positions for friends of those clients on the EPA’s Science Advisory Board.
2. **Pruitt claimed he had no knowledge of misuse of emergency sirens by his security force.** [Emails from security personnel reveal](https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/0/f/0f694328-5061-4e31-b2d1-2d4f15ca0176/7147604374422D9E15957ECA65EC1616.5.16.2018-swtc-to-epa-ig.pdf) that Pruitt regularly requested the use of lights and sirens for non-emergency purposes, including one instance where he was late to his dinner reservation at [Le Diplomate](http://www.businessinsider.com/scott-pruitt-lights-and-sirens-security-detail-2018-4), an upscale French restaurant in Washington.
3. **Pruitt claimed unprecedented security threats prompted the EPA Inspector General to assign him unprecedented 24-hour personal security detail in August 2017.** [Documents reveal](https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/14/politics/epa-pruitt-security-detail/index.html) that Pruitt himself made the request - before his first day on the job in February.
4. **Pruitt claimed there was no political review of the multiple Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for emails, schedules, and other standard information relevant to his unethical behavior.** But [internal emails show](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/06/pruitt-epa-document-requests-570289) that Pruitt’s office clamped down on the document requests, with political appointees slowing the release of information related to Pruitt’s scandals.
* Pruitt is unfit for office - his Senate hearing was yet another example why he must resign or be fired immediately.

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* .@EPAScottPruitt spent his morning blatantly lying to the Senate about his sweetheart condo deal, his 24/7 personal security detail, @EPA review of FOIA requests, and his use of emergency sirens. #BootPruitt <http://www.businessinsider.com/scott-pruitt-lights-and-sirens-security-detail-2018-4>
* Given @EPAScottPruitt’s obvious habit of lying to the Senate it’s no surprise that he set up his own legal defense fund. We have a better idea: he should resign. #BootPruitt <https://twitter.com/BootPruitt/status/996848247837741058>

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