JAMES M. INHOFE
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
205 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603
(202) 224-4721

TULSA OFFICE
1924 SOUTH UTICA, SUITE 530
TULSA, OK 74104
(918) 748-5111

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE
1900 N.W. EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 1210
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73118
(405) 608-4381

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
INTELLIGENCE *ex officio*
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

August 14, 2013

The Honorable Curt Spalding
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Administrator Spalding,

Over the past several days, a number of news reports have noted your participation, together with other Administration officials and Members of Congress, in environmental advocacy events that are taking place today in Providence, Rhode Island and Hartford, Connecticut. It appears these events, coordinated by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), have coincidentally fallen in conjunction with the Obama political apparatus, Organizing for Action's (OFA) massive campaign this week against sitting Members of Congress whose views on climate change oppose those of the President.

Any inappropriate coordination being conducted among the White House, Members of Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and OFA is of grave concern. The OFA activities are clearly political in nature, solely targeting Republican members of the House and Senate for campaign purposes. This is alarming because on February 25 of this year, after reports surfaced that OFA was selling quarterly meetings with the President in exchange for $500,000 donations, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney claimed that OFA was an independent organization and would not be engaged in political activities. Cleary OFA is now engaging in political activities and it appears as though they are closely coordinating efforts with your office and CEQ, negating their independence.

The appearance, with the press at least, is that CEQ and EPA are in lockstep with OFA in campaign related events that are not only designed to actively push the President's political agenda, but also actively target Members of Congress. The involvement of CEQ and EPA at these events, highlighting the work of OFA, brings a level of legitimacy to an otherwise dubious organization. It raises serious doubts about whether OFA is actually the independent entity the White House claims it to be, or whether it is an official extension of the President's Administration. At minimum, this coordination is deceiving to the American public, and it is potentially illegal. Any coordination between CEQ and OFA in the timing, scope, and execution of this week's events and campaign activities may have serious Hatch Act enforcement consequences. Therefore, as the Ranking Member of the Oversight Subcommittee of the Senate

Environment and Public Works Committee, I hereby request the following information and documents be provided to my office within fifteen business days:

1) (a) Any written or electronic correspondence including emails, letters, faxes, text messages, images, instant electronic messages or other documents between EPA Region 1 staff, including Administrator Spalding with any official, staff person, or representative of OFA, paid or unpaid, involving the selection of dates, sharing of talking points, draft press releases, or any written communications at all involving the CEQ events scheduled for August 14, 2013 in Rhode Island and Connecticut.
   (b) Any phone logs, notes from any telephone conversations, voice mail messages, or records of any such calls between EPA Region 1 staff, including Administrator Spalding, with any official, staff person, or representative of OFA, paid or unpaid, involving the selection of dates, sharing of talking points, draft press releases, or any written communications at all involving the CEQ events scheduled for August 14, 2013 in Rhode Island and Connecticut.
   (c) Any meeting notes, records of meetings or informal discussions between EPA Region 1 staff, including Administrator Spalding, with any official, staff person, or representative of OFA, paid or unpaid involving the selection of dates, sharing of talking points, draft press releases, or any written communications at all involving the CEQ events scheduled for August 14, 2013 in Rhode Island and Connecticut.
2) Any records or documents as referenced in question number one that involve any other potential dates for such activities or other potential locations. In addition, please provide any internal EPA communications of any sort involving the selection of the dates or other potential dates.
3) Please provide any records or documents as referenced in question number one between the EPA Region 1 and CEQ.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Staff Director, Luke Holland, with any questions at 202-224-4721.

Sincerely,

James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee