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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641

Minority (202) 225-2927

March 21, 2025

Ms. Nicole Murley  
Acting Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Murley:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled “Examining the Biden Administration’s Energy and Environment Spending Push.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Friday, April 4, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Calvin Huggins Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to [Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov](mailto:Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov).

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Palmer", with a stylized, flowing script.

Gary Palmer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: Yvette Clarke, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

## **Additional Questions for the Record**

### **The Honorable Buddy Carter**

1. Ms. Murley, if a concern about conflict of interest or ethics was brought to the EPA OIG, how would your office handle that? Have you heard of this grant given to Power Forward Communities, and if not can you commit here that you will ensure these funds were properly allocated?
2. How can EPA be sure that programs are spending money wisely and not giving their friends at these organizations free reign over American tax dollars? Was the grant for Power Forward Communities analyzed before it was sent out?

### **The Honorable Rick Allen**

1. With the large amount of funding from the IRA and IIJA and with short statutory deadlines to send out the grant money, does the EPA OIG follow where the money is going, and do you have concerns about sending large amounts of grant money in a short amount of time?

### **The Honorable Russ Fulcher**

1. Do you have anything to add on ways the EPA program folks can coordinate better with state DEQs and with local municipalities over compliance that is not too burdensome to local municipalities as they meet requirements, given your vantage point at the EPA OIG?

### **The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

1. Can you clarify the timeline of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) awards? When were selectees announced? When was the financial agency agreement set up? When were the funds obligated and disbursed?
2. Under the financial agency agreement set up for National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA), what kind of data is shared with EPA? Are sub-grantees subject to the same oversight as grantees? How does that compare with the Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system? Is there more or less oversight?
3. In the GGRF grant agreements, what are the terms and conditions under which EPA may freeze or exert security control over ASAP or Account Control Agreement (ACA) accounts?
4. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has stated that one grant agreement "was telling this entity that they have 21 days to distribute \$2.29 billion." Is this a complete and accurate reflection of the terms of any of the GGRF grant agreements? If not, what additional

context should Congress be aware of in the agreement(s) regarding deadlines to disburse funds?

5. In the recent letter asking for an OIG investigation into GGRF funds, EPA Deputy Administrator McIntosh wrote that a grant recipient named Young, Gifted, & Green was awarded \$20 million. Was this organization a GGRF awardee or sub-awardee?