

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4604**

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop,

I am writing to request that the subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hold an oversight hearing on the Trump administration's attempts to deny the American people crucial facts about climate change and to prevent public servants from blowing the whistle on waste, fraud and abuse.

Climate change is the single most important health, economic, national security, and environmental issue under this committee's jurisdiction. Every other issue under the Committee's jurisdiction is impacted by it in profound and irreversible ways. We must act now to limit the worst effects of climate change. This starts with leadership from this Committee.

Recent reports of the administration's efforts to scrub verifiable climate facts are therefore concerning. Basic climate change information has already been wiped from the websites of the White House and the State Department.

Compounding the concern about hiding scientific information are reports of gag orders from political appointees to agency staff. A memorandum to employees at the Department of Interior (DOI) issued on January 20, 2017 said, "No correspondence should be cleared to go to Congress or to any Governor until it has been reviewed by the Acting Chief of Staff and/or Senior White House Advisor."<sup>1</sup> A hearing could explore whether such directives are in compliance with various laws governing whistleblowers' access to Congress.

The order also runs counter to basic principles of good government. A significant portion of investigations into waste, fraud and abuse at federal agencies is initiated by tips from employees within the agency. Limiting a major source of accountability paves the way to less public scrutiny, less accountability. The result is less responsive, less efficient, and less effective government.

I stand ready to work with you to assemble a hearing about the deletion of climate change information and the silencing of whistleblowers. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



**A. Donald McEachin**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



**Raúl M. Grijalva**  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources

<sup>1</sup> US Department of the Interior Office of the Secretary, Memorandum, January 20, 2017, available at [www.eenews.net/assets/2017/01/26/document\\_gw\\_10.pdf](http://www.eenews.net/assets/2017/01/26/document_gw_10.pdf)