

Message

From: Garrison, Jessica [jgarrison@balch.com]
Sent: 3/20/2017 6:12:41 PM
To: Hale, Michelle [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb99f5247ab8412fa017133839301fee-Hale, Miche]
Subject: FW: Pruitt Staff
Attachments: removed.txt; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; Balch_Logo_17db8ea2-760c-49c3-b0ff-19f80bb6a179.jpg

WHITE HOUSE

Trump aides cause friction at EPA, other agencies
Robin Bravender<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.eenews.net_staff_Robin-5FBravender&d=DwMFAG&c=aBdhyoZJYdu02RKJitouCNP8RLVZN4_JgMDCvKb9PPk&r=V5VvDUQh3exPvRKvoErkL8WRGuI9F1fF0epwYJ1X_m8&m=RN70sdimqizRigAG1MT1lnV2FGugUwIo50gfjltNYZo&s=y7CU9sYnZdvtzY3mTnLMNFm0N0kq6-QY-GQawWbx4_w&e=>, E&E News reporter
[on Benton]Published: Monday, March 20, 2017
EPA senior White House adviser, Don Benton. Photo by Washington State House Republicans, courtesy of Flickr.
White House political appointees are clashing with U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Staffers installed on the Trump administration's "beachhead team" at EPA have been at odds with the agency's new chief since Pruitt and his aides arrived at headquarters last month. The internal conflicts at EPA have already resulted in one high-profile departure, and the White House's liaison to the agency has been shut out of meetings by Pruitt, The Washington Post reported yesterday. One source who's in touch with political employees at EPA said "things are a mess" at that agency, citing infighting among top political officials. EPA isn't the only agency facing internal strife. The Post reported that senior White House aides in agencies across government have been tasked with "monitoring the secretaries' loyalty." Those aides report to White House Deputy Chief of Staff Rick Dearborn, a former aide to Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and a former Energy Department official during the George W. Bush administration.

That setup has irked officials in some agencies across government, although the arrangement has been collegial in some shops – including the Interior Department – according to the Post. A White House official told the newspaper that, rather than holding agencies accountable to the White House, the appointees technically report to top officials within their respective departments. Former Obama administration officials said the role President Trump's White House advisers appear to be playing is a break from the past. David Hayes, who was Interior's deputy secretary under Presidents Clinton and Obama, said the White House liaison jobs in both of those administrations "were typically not senior policy-oriented positions, they were facilitators of discussions between the Cabinet secretaries and the White House on personnel and logistical-type issues." Ben Milakofsky, who worked in Obama's White House Office of Cabinet Affairs before becoming White House liaison and deputy chief of staff at Interior, called the Trump administration's approach "a huge contrast." He added, "This has potential to pit agencies against the White House."
Campaign aides in liaison roles
Many of the White House liaisons in agencies across government worked on Trump's campaign. [oug Domenech]Doug Domenech. Photo courtesy of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. At EPA, former Washington state Sen. Don Benton is serving as senior White House adviser. He was Trump's campaign chairman in Washington state. But Benton has been shut out of some EPA staff meetings, the Post reported, after Benton frequently offered unsolicited advice. Last week, former Trump political appointee David Schnare resigned from his job on EPA's beachhead team. Schnare told E&E News last week that he stepped down as a result of the "misuse of federal funds, failure to honor oaths of office, and a lack of loyalty to the President" (Greenwire<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.eenews.net_stories_1060051580&d=DwMFAG&c=aBdhyoZJYdu02RKJitouCNP8RLVZN4_JgMDCvKb9PPk&r=V5VvDUQh3exPvRKvoErkL8WRGuI9F1fF0epwYJ1X_m8&m=RN70sdimqizRigAG1MT1lnV2FGugUwIo50gfjltNYZo&s=sqyvFROVwaez_BVxRA-RlSFlQFTia46VMsY3z3bdGfG&e=>, March 16). EPA spokesman Doug Ericksen – another former Trump campaign aide – and Schnare declined to comment for this story. The White House press office did not respond to a request for comment. [ells Griffith]wells Griffith. Photo courtesy of LinkedIn. In addition to Benton, Charles Munoz is working as a White House liaison at EPA. Munoz was Nevada state director for Trump's campaign. At Interior, Doug Domenech is the senior adviser to the White House. He led the department's transition team and was an Interior official during the George W. Bush administration. The Energy Department's senior White House adviser is Wells Griffith, who was battleground states director for Trump's presidential campaign. Joseph Uddo – who worked for the presidential campaigns of Trump and Ben Carson – is also a DOE liaison to the White House (E&E News PM<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.eenews.net_eenewspm_stories_1060051162&d=DwMFAG&c=aBdhyoZJYdu02RKJitouCNP8RLVZN4_JgMDCvKb9PPk&r=V5VvDUQh3exPvRKvoErkL8WRGuI9F1fF0epwYJ1X_m8&m=RN70sdimqizRigAG1MT1lnV2FGugUwIo50gfjltNYZo&s=w820-FQwBLmu0eTswAiV_oR3s5VinChHmVwE3K7Ve-E&e=>, March 8).

At the Agriculture Department, a co-chairman of the Trump campaign is the top White House liaison (Greenwire<<mailto:rbravender@eenews.net>>

EPA

Pruitt's Okla. posse arrives at agency

Kevin Bogardus<[Published: Monday, March 20, 2017](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.eenews.net_staff_Kevin-5FBogardus&d=DwMFAG&c=aBdhyoZJYdu02RKJitouCNP8RLVZN4_JgMDcVkb9PPk&r=V5VvDUQh3exPvRKvoErkL8WRGuI9F1fF0epWYJ1X_m8&m=RN7OsdimqiZRigAG1MT1lnV2FGugUwIo5OgfjltNYZo&s=J2xgdIurzeE2X9005eEhe2coZAs_DYSBiU2Ydm7t9mtE&e=>, E&E News reporter</p></div><div data-bbox=)

A coterie of U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's aides and political consultants from his time in Oklahoma have joined the agency.

Sources tell E&E News that Pruitt has brought on several staffers at EPA who either worked under him when he was Oklahoma attorney general or were part of his campaign team in the Sooner State.

[Lincoln Ferguson]Lincoln Ferguson. Photo courtesy of LinkedIn.

Sarah Greenwalt, who was general counsel for the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General during Pruitt's tenure, has joined EPA as senior counsel. In addition, Lincoln Ferguson, who was press secretary for the Oklahoma attorney general's office, has joined EPA's public affairs office.

Both Greenwalt and Ferguson played a part in the recent controversy over Pruitt's emails as Oklahoma attorney general.

Last month, Pruitt was sued to release those emails under open records litigation from the liberal-leaning Center for Media and Democracy – some of which he has now released, providing more details on his state office's close relationship with the oil and gas industry. Greenwalt responded to the group's queries for those emails while Ferguson has given statements to the press about the litigation, calling

CMD's complaint "political theatre" at one point

(Greenwire<[Also, some of Pruitt's political staff have come to EPA.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.eenews.net_greenwire_stories_1060049673&d=DwMFAG&c=aBdhyoZJYdu02RKJitouCNP8RLVZN4_JgMDcVkb9PPk&r=V5VvDUQh3exPvRKvoErkL8WRGuI9F1fF0epWYJ1X_m8&m=RN7OsdimqiZRigAG1MT1lnV2FGugUwIo5OgfjltNYZo&s=50vkuN_yrffwzQShOyI0DrNosUL1ZODuwKpfYlWecvU&e=>, Feb. 7).</p></div><div data-bbox=)

[Sydney Hupp]Sydney Hupp. Photo courtesy of LinkedIn.

Millan Hupp, a political consultant who was part of Pruitt's campaign team in Oklahoma, has joined the agency to handle advance work. Her sister, Sydney Hupp, another former Pruitt campaign aide, has joined EPA as well to work as a scheduler.

Both Hupps worked on Pruitt's state campaign for Oklahoma attorney general, according to Oklahoma Ethics Commission records.

Further, during this last election cycle, Federal Election Commission records show that the Hupp sisters also worked for both of Pruitt's federal political groups, the Oklahoma Strong Leadership PAC and Liberty 2.0, the EPA chief's super political action committee.

Pruitt faced ethics questions on whether or not he planned to keep those political groups active while he ran EPA. Both groups filed termination letters with the FEC on the eve of his confirmation hearing in

January (Climatewire<[All four individuals started at EPA last week.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.eenews.net_climatewire_stories_1060048623&d=DwMFAG&c=aBdhyoZJYdu02RKJitouCNP8RLVZN4_JgMDcVkb9PPk&r=V5VvDUQh3exPvRKvoErkL8WRGuI9F1fF0epWYJ1X_m8&m=RN7OsdimqiZRigAG1MT1lnV2FGugUwIo5OgfjltNYZo&s=r94vwdieumJpGtEIP8L0P-M1EFy5fuD_fq40eURPn6o&e=>, Jan. 19).</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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