

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301

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October 1, 2015

Dr. Jagadish Shukla  
President  
Institute of Global Environment and Society  
11300 Rockville Pike, Suite 101  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Shukla,

I recently learned of allegations concerning a series of grants, reportedly worth millions of dollars, awarded by National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration to the Institute of Global Environment and Society (IGES).<sup>1</sup> According to media reports, IGES is responsible for circulating a letter<sup>2</sup> to President Barack Obama, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and OSTP Director John Holdren requesting an investigation of corporations and other organizations who question the risks of climate change under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).<sup>3</sup> This letter raises serious concerns because IGES appears to be almost fully funded by taxpayer money while simultaneously participating in partisan political activity by requesting a RICO investigation of companies and organizations that disagree with the Obama Administration on climate change.<sup>4</sup> In fact, IGES has reportedly received \$63 million from taxpayers since 2001, comprising over 98 percent of its total revenue during that time.<sup>5</sup>

It is reasonably foreseeable that the Committee will request documents from IGES at some point during its investigation of the aforementioned allegations. IGES's recent decision to remove documents from its website raises concerns that additional information vital to the Committee's investigation may not be preserved.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, so that a full and complete record

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<sup>1</sup> See Michael Batasch, *Climate Scientists Asking Obama to Prosecute Skeptics Got Million from US Taxpayers*, DAILY CALLER, Sept. 21, 2015, available at <http://dailycaller.com/2015/09/21/climate-scientists-asking-obama-to-prosecute-skeptics-gets-millions-from-u-s-taxpayers/>

<sup>2</sup> The letter was recently removed from IGES's website but available at <http://web.archive.org/web/20150920110942/http://www.iges.org/letter/LetterPresidentAG.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Batasch, *supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> See *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> See Lachlan Markay, *Scientist Demands Federal Investigation of Climate Change Skeptics*, FREE BEACON, Sept. 22, 2015, available at <http://freebeacon.com/issues/scientist-demands-criminal-investigation-of-climate-change->

<sup>6</sup> See Michael Bastasch, *MYSTERY: Scientists Remove Letter Asking Obama to Prosecute Global Warming Skeptics*, DAILY CALLER, Sept. 29, 2015, available at <http://dailycaller.com/2015/09/29/mystery-scientists-remove-letter-asking-obama-to-prosecute-global-warming-skeptics/>.

of relevant communications can be produced to the Committee in response to a document request, as the President of IGES, please:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) created since January 1, 2009, that can be reasonably anticipated to be subject to a request for production by the Committee. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify current employees, former employees, contractors, and third party groups who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and,
3. If it is the routine practice of any employee, contractor, or third party group to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either:
  - a. halt such practices; or,
  - b. arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

Pursuant to Rule X of the U.S. House of Representatives, I request that you respond in writing as soon as possible, but no later than **October 8, 2015**, to confirm receipt of this letter and to advise the Committee of the actions IGES will take to comply with the document preservation request. Please also:

1. Provide the Committee with a list of current and former employees (paid or unpaid), interns, and other persons associated with IGES from January 1, 2009, to the present; and,
2. Provide written certification that a copy of this preservation request has been provided to all current employees of IGES.

When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2321 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 394 of the Ford House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Lamar Echols or Drew Colliatie of the Committee Staff at 202-225-6371. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lamar Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Lamar Smith  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Minority Member