

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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October 19, 2015

Thomas Spiggle
Partner
The Spiggle Law Firm
4830 31st Street South, Suite B
Arlington, VA 22206

Dear Mr. Spiggle,

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is conducting an investigation into a series of grants, reportedly worth millions of dollars, awarded to non-profit entities established by your client, Dr. Jagadish Shukla. One of the non-profit entities, Institute of Global Environment and Society (IGES), describes itself as a “non-profit, tax exempt research institute” that was established to “improve the understanding and prediction of the variations of the Earth’s climate.”¹ Public records and media reports raise concerns regarding the fiscal management of the federal grant dollars received by Dr. Shukla.² To assist the Committee’s investigation of these matters, I am writing to request related documents and information.

According to news reports, IGES is responsible for circulating a letter³ to President Barack Obama, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and Office of Science and Technology Policy Director John Holdren requesting an investigation of corporations and other organizations that question the risks of climate change under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).⁴ IGES published the letter on its website. This letter raises concerns because federal laws and regulations prohibit funds appropriated by an act of Congress to be used in furtherance of influencing public policy.⁵ IGES appears to be almost fully funded by taxpayer money while simultaneously participating in partisan political activity by lobbying the Obama

¹ IGES, *About IGES*, available at <http://www.iges.org/aboutiges.html> (last visited Oct. 7, 2015).

² See Ian Tuttle, *Getting Rich Off Climate Extremism*, NAT’L REVIEW, Oct. 1, 2015, available at <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/424875/climate-extremist-taxpayer-funded-ian-tuttle>.

³ 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>

⁴ See Michael Bastasch, *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/>.

⁵ See 18 U.S.C. § 3101 & 31 U.S.C. § 1352; see also Office of Management and Budget, *Circular A-122*, May 10, 2004, available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/circulars/a122/a122_2004.pdf

Administration for a RICO investigation of companies and organizations that disagree with the Administration on climate change.⁶ At the least, it is an egregious misuse of taxpayer money.

To date, IGES has reportedly received \$63 million from taxpayers since 2001, comprising over 98 percent of its total revenue. These grants were awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to IGES.⁷ According to NSF's salary and wage policy, total compensation should be "reasonable for the work performed."⁸ Since 2001, as President of IGES, Mr. Shukla reportedly paid himself and his wife a total of \$5.6 million in compensation from IGES.⁹ Additionally, Dr. Shukla received an annual salary of approximately \$314,000 from George Mason University.¹⁰ It also appears IGES shifted \$100,000 in grant money to an education charity, Institute for Global Education Equality of Opportunity and Prosperity, Inc. that subsequently transferred the money to a school in India that was apparently founded by Dr. Shukla.¹¹ Moreover, in 2013, Dr. Shukla and his wife reportedly received \$547,000 in compensation from IGES.¹² Combined with his salary from George Mason University, total compensation for the Shuklas exceeded \$800,000 in both 2013 and 2014.¹³ If this information is accurate, it raises serious questions about Dr. Shukla's use of grant money.

According to Grants.Gov, "[a] grant is a way the government funds your ideas and projects to provide public services and stimulate the economy."¹⁴ However, in this case, it appears that grants provided to IGES are not serving the intended purpose of providing services to the public. Instead, taxpayers appear to be picking up the tab for excessive salaries, nepotism, questionable money transfers, and political activity while receiving little or no benefit.

The public expects non-profit organizations that receive taxpayer money to exercise responsible stewardship of their tax dollars. As this Committee is charged with investigating waste and abuse in agencies under its jurisdiction, I have initiated this oversight regarding grants received by Dr. Shukla. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule X of the U.S. House of Representatives, I request the following documents and information as soon as possible, but by no later than noon on November 2, 2015:

⁶ See Bastasch, *supra* note 4.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ See NSF Policy 611.1 Salaries and Wages available at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/manuals/gpm05_131/gpm6.jsp#616.2

⁹ See Tuttle, *supra* note 2.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*; see also Gandhi College, *Founder of Gandhi College*, available at <http://www.iges.org/gandhicollege/aboutframe.html>

¹² Tuttle, *supra* note 2.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Grants.Gov, *Grants 101*, available at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101.html> (last visited Oct. 7, 2015).

1. All documents and communications including, but not limited to, expenditures, e-mails, letters, memorandums, records, notes and text messages referring or relating to any grant, contract, or other financial award made to Dr. Jagadish Shukla or any non-profit entity affiliated with Dr. Shukla, from January 1, 2009 to the present.
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to IGES's transfer of \$100,000 to Institute for Global Education Equality of Opportunity and Prosperity, Inc. in 2014, including but not limited to bank records, e-mails, text messages, letters, and notes.
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to Gandhi College including, but not limited to, e-mails between Dr. Jagadish Shukla and the manager of the college, Shiriram Shukla.

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".

Lamar Smith
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Minority Member