



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

May 26, 2017

Walter Shaub
Director
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue N.W. Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Director Shaub:

Thank you for your May 22, 2017, letter regarding the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) request that the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) stay its data call seeking copies of certain waivers and authorizations of appointees in Federal agencies and the White House.

OMB shares the belief that the Executive Branch must uphold the highest ethical standards in accordance with the law. Your letter, however, does not appropriately characterize OMB's request for a stay, nor our intentions in sending the letter. Contrary to your assertions, OMB has never sought to impede OGE nor to prevent others, including agencies, from acting as required by law. OMB merely requested that OGE temporarily delay the return date of the data call to ensure sufficient consideration was given to legal questions, including the most appropriate manner in which to handle data of the type requested. OMB will continue to explore these questions with your staff and, as necessary, the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel.

Put another way, our concern was, and is, protecting the process related to the data call. We have no objection to the substance of the call. Accordingly, OMB is voluntarily providing the information you requested: OMB did not issue or approve any waivers or authorizations requested by the OGE data call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mick" over "Mulvaney".

Mick Mulvaney
Director

cc: Curtis E. Gannon, Acting Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice
Agency General Counsels and Designated Agency Ethics Officials