

**From:** Macie Leach [mailto: (b)(6) ]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 18, 2018 5:15 PM  
**To:** Leach, Macie (Federal) <SLeach@doc.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Charles Johnson < (b)(6) >  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:13 PM  
**Subject:** David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross  
**To:** (b)(6) , "Ross, Wilbur L" < (b)(6) >  
**Cc:** Macie Leach < (b)(6) >

Hey Commerce Secretary Ross,

I thought I would introduce you to David Smith, Executive Chairman of Sinclair.

You might have read that the FCC queered his deal because they are scapegoating him after the net neutrality fight.

I'm acting here not because Mr. Smith and I have any business ties -- we don't -- but because I'm concerned that if he's not able to merge with Tribune we are going to have serious problems getting our message out for future elections.

With the tech companies pushing a solidly left-wing view and Fox dependent on the heart beat of Rupert Murdoch things look pretty dire if Sinclair isn't permitted to grow large enough to compete.

**I think President Trump should know about the stakes here.**

Maybe you gentlemen can meet up? I'll be in DC Monday-Tuesday if you want me to tag along.

Charles C. Johnson

(b) (6)

Author of *Why Coolidge Matters: Leadership Lessons from America's Most Underrated President*.  
<http://t.co/OsY5s6vD> and *The Truth About the IRS Scandals*. <http://tinyurl.com/o4t3mb7>.

## Slattery, Elizabeth (Federal)

---

**From:** David Smith Executive Chairman <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:02 PM  
**To:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Leach, Macie (Federal)  
**Subject:** RE: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross

Appreciate the thought. Thank you.

---

**From:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal) [mailto:CNeuhaus@doc.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:09 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Smith Executive Chairman <(b)(6)>; Leach, Macie (Federal) <SLeach@doc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross

Mr. Johnson –

Out of an abundance of caution the Secretary will have to decline this meeting request to ensure that it does not appear that he is using his official position to engage in partisan activities.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Regards,  
Chelsey

Chelsey Neuhaus  
Deputy Director of Scheduling | Office of the Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
202-482-7452 (d) | (b)(6) (c)  
[cneuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:cneuhaus@doc.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Charles Johnson <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:13 PM  
**Subject:** David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross  
**To:** (b)(6), "Ross, Wilbur L" <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Macie Leach <(b)(6)>

Hey Commerce Secretary Ross,

I thought I would introduce you to David Smith, Executive Chairman of Sinclair.

You might have read that the FCC queered his deal because they are scapegoating him after the net neutrality fight.

I'm acting here not because Mr. Smith and I have any business ties -- we don't -- but because I'm concerned that if he's not able to merge with Tribune we are going to have serious problems getting our message out for future elections.

With the tech companies pushing a solidly left-wing view and Fox dependent on the heart beat of Rupert Murdoch things look pretty dire if Sinclair isn't permitted to grow large enough to compete.

**I think President Trump should know about the stakes here.**

Maybe you gentlemen can meet up? I'll be in DC Monday-Tuesday if you want me to tag along.

Charles C. Johnson

(b) (6)

Author of *Why Coolidge Matters: Leadership Lessons from America's Most Underrated President*. <http://t.co/OsY5s6vD> and *The Truth About the IRS Scandals*. <http://tinyurl.com/o4t3mb7>.

## Slattery, Elizabeth (Federal)

---

**From:** Charles Johnson <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:44 PM  
**To:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal); Wilbur Ross  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Leach, Macie (Federal)  
**Subject:** Re: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross

I understand his position though I think that abundance of caution is more than a touch overstated.

Charles C. Johnson

Founder, CEO of WeSearchr.com: Crowdfunding the Truth

Founder of Gotnews.com

(b) (6)

Author of *Why Coolidge Matters: Leadership Lessons from America's Most Underrated President*.  
<http://t.co/OsY5s6vD> and *The Truth About the IRS Scandals*. <http://tinyurl.com/o4t3mb7>.

On Thu, Jul 19, 2018 at 11:08 AM, Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal) <[CNeuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:CNeuhaus@doc.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Johnson –

Out of an abundance of caution the Secretary will have to decline this meeting request to ensure that it does not appear that he is using his official position to engage in partisan activities.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Regards,  
Chelsey

Chelsey Neuhaus

Deputy Director of Scheduling | Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Commerce

202-482-7452 (d) | (b)(6) (c)

[cneuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:cneuhaus@doc.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Charles Johnson <(b)(6)>  
Date: Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:13 PM  
Subject: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross  
To: (b)(6), "Ross, Wilbur L" <(b)(6)>  
Cc: Macie Leach <(b)(6)>

Hey Commerce Secretary Ross,

I thought I would introduce you to David Smith, Executive Chairman of Sinclair.

You might have read that the FCC queered his deal because they are scapegoating him after the net neutrality fight.

I'm acting here not because Mr. Smith and I have any business ties -- we don't -- but because I'm concerned that if he's not able to merge with Tribune we are going to have serious problems getting our message out for future elections.

With the tech companies pushing a solidly left-wing view and Fox dependent on the heart beat of Rupert Murdoch things look pretty dire if Sinclair isn't permitted to grow large enough to compete.

**I think President Trump should know about the stakes here.**

Maybe you gentlemen can meet up? I'll be in DC Monday-Tuesday if you want me to tag along.

Charles C. Johnson

(b) (6)

Author of *Why Coolidge Matters: Leadership Lessons from America's Most Underrated President*.  
<http://t.co/OsY5s6vD> and *The Truth About the IRS Scandals*. <http://tinyurl.com/o4t3mb7>.

|

## Slattery, Elizabeth (Federal)

---

**From:** Charles Johnson <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:42 PM  
**To:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Leach, Macie (Federal)  
**Subject:** Re: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross

Thanks for your concern.

Charles C. Johnson

Founder, CEO of WeSearchr.com: Crowdfunding the Truth

Founder of Gotnews.com

(b) (6)

Author of *Why Coolidge Matters: Leadership Lessons from America's Most Underrated President*.  
<http://t.co/OsY5s6vD> and *The Truth About the IRS Scandals*. <http://tinyurl.com/o4t3mb7>.

On Thu, Jul 19, 2018 at 11:08 AM, Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal) <[CNeuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:CNeuhaus@doc.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Johnson –

Out of an abundance of caution the Secretary will have to decline this meeting request to ensure that it does not appear that he is using his official position to engage in partisan activities.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Regards,  
Chelsey

Chelsey Neuhaus

Deputy Director of Scheduling | Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Commerce

202-482-7452 (d) | (b)(6) (c)

[cneuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:cneuhaus@doc.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Charles Johnson <(b)(6)>  
Date: Wed, Jul 18, 2018 at 5:13 PM  
Subject: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross  
To: (b)(6), "Ross, Wilbur L" <(b)(6)>  
Cc: Macie Leach <(b)(6)>

Hey Commerce Secretary Ross,

I thought I would introduce you to David Smith, Executive Chairman of Sinclair.

You might have read that the FCC queered his deal because they are scapegoating him after the net neutrality fight.

I'm acting here not because Mr. Smith and I have any business ties -- we don't -- but because I'm concerned that if he's not able to merge with Tribune we are going to have serious problems getting our message out for future elections.

With the tech companies pushing a solidly left-wing view and Fox dependent on the heart beat of Rupert Murdoch things look pretty dire if Sinclair isn't permitted to grow large enough to compete.

**I think President Trump should know about the stakes here.**

Maybe you gentlemen can meet up? I'll be in DC Monday-Tuesday if you want me to tag along.

Charles C. Johnson

(b) (6)

Author of *Why Coolidge Matters: Leadership Lessons from America's Most Underrated President*.  
<http://t.co/OsY5s6vD> and *The Truth About the IRS Scandals*. <http://tinyurl.com/o4t3mb7>.





## Slattery, Elizabeth (Federal)

---

**From:** Maggi, David (Federal)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:10 PM  
**To:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal)  
**Cc:** Bedan, Morgan (Federal); Leach, Macie (Federal); Jacobi, Will (Federal); Jacob, Dana (Federal)  
**Subject:** RE: David Smith << >> Secretary Wilbur Ross

Thank you.

David Maggi  
Chief, Ethics Law and Programs Division  
Office of the General Counsel  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
202-482-7938

Confidentiality Notice: This email message is intended only for the named recipients. It contains information that may be confidential, privileged, attorney work product, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this message in error, are not a named recipient, or are not the employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to a named recipient, be advised that any review, disclosure, use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message or its contents is strictly prohibited. Please notify us immediately that you have received this message in error, and delete this message.

---

**From:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:10 PM  
**To:** Maggi, David (Federal) <dMaggi@doc.gov>  
**Cc:** Bedan, Morgan (Federal) <MBedan@doc.gov>; Leach, Macie (Federal) <SLeach@doc.gov>; Jacobi, Will (Federal) <wjacobi@doc.gov>; Jacob, Dana (Federal) <DJacob@doc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: David Smith << >> Secretary Wilbur Ross

(b)(5) DPP/ACP

Chelsey Neuhaus  
Deputy Director of Scheduling | Office of the Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
202-482-7452 (d) | (b)(6) (c)  
[cneuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:cneuhaus@doc.gov)

---

**From:** Maggi, David (Federal)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 10:33 AM  
**To:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal) <[CNeuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:CNeuhaus@doc.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bedan, Morgan (Federal) <[MBedan@doc.gov](mailto:MBedan@doc.gov)>; Leach, Macie (Federal) <[SLeach@doc.gov](mailto:SLeach@doc.gov)>; Jacobi, Will (Federal) <[wjacobi@doc.gov](mailto:wjacobi@doc.gov)>; Jacob, Dana (Federal) <[DJacob@doc.gov](mailto:DJacob@doc.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: David Smith << >> Secretary Wilbur Ross

Chelsey,

(b)(5) ACP

(b)(5) ACP

If there are any questions about this advice, please contact me at 202-482-7938 or [dmaggi@doc.gov](mailto:dmaggi@doc.gov).

David Maggi  
Chief, Ethics Law and Programs Division  
Office of the General Counsel  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
202-482-7938

Confidentiality Notice: This email message is intended only for the named recipients. It contains information that may be confidential, privileged, attorney work product, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this message in error, are not a named recipient, or are not the employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to a named recipient, be advised that any review, disclosure, use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message or its contents is strictly prohibited. Please notify us immediately that you have received this message in error, and delete this message.

**From:** Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 9:54 AM  
**To:** Jacob, Dana (Federal) <[DJacob@doc.gov](mailto:DJacob@doc.gov)>; Jacobi, Will (Federal) <[wjacobi@doc.gov](mailto:wjacobi@doc.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bedan, Morgan (Federal) <[MBedan@doc.gov](mailto:MBedan@doc.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross

(b)(5) DPP

Chelsey Neuhaus  
Deputy Director of Scheduling | Office of the Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
202-482-7452 (d) | (b)(6) (c)  
[cneuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:cneuhaus@doc.gov)

---

**From:** Leach, Macie (Federal)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 18, 2018 5:33 PM  
**To:** Bedan, Morgan (Federal) <[MBedan@doc.gov](mailto:MBedan@doc.gov)>; Neuhaus, Chelsey (Federal) <[CNeuhaus@doc.gov](mailto:CNeuhaus@doc.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: David Smith <>> Secretary Wilbur Ross