

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Statement
Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings

Cummings Amendment
SCRUB Act

February 14, 2017

Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. My amendment would exempt from this bill any rule that protects whistleblowers or that imposes penalties on individuals who retaliate against whistleblowers. This bill would jeopardize all agency rulemakings even those that protect whistleblowers.

The Department of Energy issued a rule in December that would authorize the Department to impose civil penalties on federal nuclear contractors who retaliate against whistleblowers who report information concerning nuclear safety. On January 31, 2017, DOE put a moratorium on that rule in response to President Trump's mandated freeze on rulemakings.

It is exactly this kind of rule that could become a casualty of the indiscriminate attack the underlying bill makes on rulemakings. We must ensure that agencies can issue rules that protect individuals who blow the whistle on waste, fraud, abuse, as well as safety issues that can be a matter of life or death.

I strongly recommend that the Committee vote to protect whistleblowers and adopt this amendment.

Contact: Jennifer Werner, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181.