

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



FEB 15 2019

David Maggi
DAEO & Chief, Ethics Law & Program Divisions
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Maggi,

On July 12, 2018, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) sent Secretary Ross a letter expressing concern over the errors on his financial disclosure forms and his failure to comply with his ethics compliance agreements. OGE then noted that even inadvertent errors could undermine the public's trust in the Secretary and his Department's overall ethics program. Consequently, OGE emphasized the importance that the Secretary devote the resources necessary to ensure that his report and all future communications with OGE were complete and accurate.

Thereafter, the Secretary's October 31, 2018 transaction report showed that, despite this admonition, the Secretary had not in fact sold all his BankUnited stock prior to certifying his compliance with his ethics agreement and filing his annual report in 2018. As a result, his annual report inaccurately reported that he had sold all of this stock when in fact he had not done so. Therefore, OGE is declining to certify Secretary Ross's 2018 financial disclosure report because that report was not accurate and he was not in compliance with his ethics agreement at the time of the report.

You have informed OGE that it is your practice to provide the Department of Commerce's Office of Inspector General with copies of all of the Secretary's financial disclosure reports for their information and review and that you have done so in this case.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emory Rounds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "E" at the beginning.

Emory A. Rounds, III
Director

