

**From:** Mishaan, Jessica  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2016 11:31 AM  
**To:** costa@wcax.com  
**Subject:** response to WCAX records request

Jennifer,

Attached please find records in response to your request below. We have redacted personal contact information pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(7). We have withheld executive privileged communications involving the Governor and senior staff pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(1) and (4). Please be aware we are not the custodian of records of other agencies, including the Department of Fish and Wildlife. To the extent you seek records of other agencies or departments, we recommend you follow up with them directly. If you feel records have been withheld in error, you may appeal to the Governor's Chief of Staff, Darren Springer.

Thank you for your patience.

Jessica

**Jessica Mishaan** | Paralegal  
Office of the Governor  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101  
802.828.3333

**Coriell, Scott**

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**From:** Paul Heintz <paul@sevendaysvt.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 12:09 PM  
**To:** Coriell, Scott  
**Subject:** Re: Comment on lisman

Thanks. Could you send me something responding directly to the ads? I know you gave something to Hirschfeld. I might be focusing on that. And Peep. Anything to add about Peep?

On Thu, Mar 31, 2016 at 12:03 PM, Coriell, Scott <[Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Lisman should have done his homework before holding a press conference. We are currently in the process of auditing the Medicaid program by checking eligibility for roughly 9,000 recipients every month. That process is underway and will continue. Mr. Lisman seems to be following the campaign playbook of his fellow New York City Tycoon Donald Trump. Just yesterday he launched attack ads against the Governor, who is not even running. Now he appears to be using the politics of fear and anger to demonize Medicaid recipients in an effort to distract from his lack of positive ideas to move Vermont forward.

--  
// SEVEN DAYS //

:: Paul Heintz

:: Political Editor

:: <http://sevendaysvt.com>

:: office: (802) 865-1020 ext. 30

:: mobile: (802) 598-8946

:: twitter: @paulheintz

## Coriell, Scott

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**From:** Coriell, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 12:14 PM  
**To:** Paul Heintz  
**Subject:** Re: Comment on lisman

He certainly is an unusual guy - a Wall Street tycoon who helped run the global economy off the cliff, trying to refashion himself into a man of the people. Maybe he thinks that if his fellow wealthy New York City tycoon can mount a successful run for president by throwing around insults and attacks, those same tactics will help him run a successful gubernatorial campaign. I highly doubt it will work but good for him for following in the Donald's footsteps. That's certainly something unusual.

No one will hurt peep.

On Mar 31, 2016, at 12:08 PM, Paul Heintz <[paul@sevendaysvt.com](mailto:paul@sevendaysvt.com)> wrote:

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**Coriell, Scott**

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**From:** Paul Heintz <[paul@sevendaysvt.com](mailto:paul@sevendaysvt.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:09 PM  
**To:** Coriell, Scott  
**Subject:** Re: Comment on lisman

Thank you.

On Mar 31, 2016, at 12:13 PM, Coriell, Scott <[Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov)> wrote:

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:: twitter: @paulheintz

**Coriell, Scott**

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**From:** Coriell, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:11 PM  
**To:** Paul Heintz  
**Subject:** Re: Comment on lisman

#Tweet4peep

On Mar 31, 2016, at 1:09 PM, Paul Heintz <[paul@sevendaysvt.com](mailto:paul@sevendaysvt.com)> wrote:

Thank you.

On Mar 31, 2016, at 12:13 PM, Coriell, Scott <[Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov)> wrote:

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**Coriell, Scott**

---

**From:** Liz Miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2016 3:24 PM  
**To:** Coriell, Scott  
**Subject:** Re: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule

...don't mess with me, man

I thought about enlisting you to write anonymous letters to gov imploring him to call off the wardens and let Peep stay with his pug - you would be the perfect guy for the job, if you didn't have your current job. Hope all is well...

(Also thought about trying to rouse the crowds to care more about the pug than the duck - why aren't we insisting that they #freethepug if we are so adamant that a domesticated duck should be sent out the door? We need to expand Louis's authority)

Elizabeth H. Miller  
[REDACTED] cell  
[REDACTED]

On Mar 25, 2016, at 3:01 PM, Coriell, Scott <[Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov)> wrote:

What wood duck? I have no idea what you're talking about.

On Mar 25, 2016, at 2:54 PM, Liz Miller <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Tell Louis and those trappers to leave that damn wood duck alone!

Elizabeth H. Miller  
[REDACTED] cell  
[REDACTED]

On Mar 25, 2016, at 2:34 PM, Coriell, Scott <[Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov)> wrote:

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
March 25, 2016

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule**

**Saturday, March 26**

5:30 p.m. Attend Vermont Trappers Association Banquet  
Barre Civic Center, 20 Auditorium Hill, Barre

**Monday, March 28**

No public appearances scheduled.

**Tuesday, March 29**

10:30 a.m. Greet Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce  
Governor's Ceremonial Office, State House, Montpelier

10:50 a.m. Greet Fair Haven Union High School Division II  
Basketball Champions  
Governor's Ceremonial Office, State House, Montpelier

1:00 p.m. Attend Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS)  
Groundbreaking  
95 North Street, Burlington

**Wednesday, March 30**

8:45 a.m. Attend Workplace Wellness Awards  
Sheraton Hotel, Burlington

10:00 a.m. Press Conference with CVS Officials and Others on  
Efforts to Combat Opiate Addiction  
CVS Pharmacy, 69 Mountain View Drive, Colchester

**Thursday, March 31**

10:00 a.m. Page Reception Ceremony  
Governor's Ceremonial Office, State House, Montpelier

6:00 p.m. Attend Vermont Business Magazine "Best Places to  
Work" Awards  
Echo Center, Burlington

8:00 p.m. Attend Opening Ceremonies of the 2016 USA Hockey  
Girls Tier II Nationals  
Gutterson Field House, University of Vermont

**Friday, April 1**

No public appearances scheduled.

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## Mishaan, Jessica

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**Subject:** FW: Mail for Governor Shumlin

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen, Susan  
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 4:40 PM  
To: Trombley, Shana <Shana.Trombley@vermont.gov>; Springer, Darren <Darren.Springer@vermont.gov>  
Subject: RE: Mail for Governor Shumlin

Darren, thoughts?

-----Original Message-----

From: Trombley, Shana  
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 4:35 PM  
To: Allen, Susan <Susan.Allen@vermont.gov>  
Subject: FW: Mail for Governor Shumlin

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Briglin [mailto:TBriglin@leg.state.vt.us]  
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 4:33 PM  
To: Trombley, Shana <Shana.Trombley@vermont.gov>  
Subject: Mail for Governor Shumlin

Shana,

I wanted to check in with you to see if I can get 90 seconds with the governor. I met with a first grade class at Thetford Elementary School this morning. They have been having lots of discussion about "Peep the duck" and debating what should be done. They've all written letters and drawn pictures for Governor Shumlin, and I told them I would make sure they reached his desk.

I would love to get a picture of me handing the governor the letters and see if I can get a response from him on official stationary.

Really appreciate your help.

Best,  
Tim

Date: 4/3/2016 7:32:55 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Dear Peter,

I'm totally aware of the law prohibiting the domestic keeping of wildlife. But in the case of "Peep" it would seem to me some compassion should be shown for this old lady who will be heartbroken if it is removed from her home. There is no threat to the wild population if she is allowed to keep it, so why not? Seeing you are a "Lame Duck" Governor it should be within your executive order to grant a pardon and allow this little duck that has brought so much joy to this old lady to live out its remaining years with her. In spite of all your hard work over the years, do you really want to be remembered by Vermonters as the Governor who took away from an old person in her later years of life the one thing that brought joy to her world. If you can some how secretly work this out, I won't Peep a word of it.

Bill Mayo

Franklin General Store

Date: 3/31/2016 3:33:43 PM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

I cannot believe the rationale behind taking one (1) poor little woodduck that is happy, healthy and being taken well care of and releasing it God knows where. It will definitely perish as it is not afraid of people, dogs or have the ability to care for itself. The Governor of the State of Vt needs to stay out of it and tend to bigger and things that have much more of a priority. Haven't you done enough damage to our State without going out on this note. Or is it that you no longer have anything to lose? I have been told that anyone can legally order a woodduck and if that is the case, it will come back to bite someone. The duck has a good home for whatever years/months it has left and it should be left right where it is. For once, do the RIGHT THING!

Janine Lamarche

Date: 3/31/2016 8:26:26 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Gov. Shumlin,

I would respectfully ask that you reconsider the law in the case of Kim Stevens and Peeps the Duck. Anyone obviously knows this duck could not survive in the wild and no amount of rehab is going to change that. The family saved the duck and was ignorant of the law but the damage is done. Please let sleeping ducks lie.

Dan Poplawski

Essex Jct. VT

Date: 3/31/2016 7:32:16 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

I saw the news about the duck look the duck is happy and safe what the hell is the big ordeal over a duck that has created a bond with a person its not a grizzly bear. all the problems we have in vt and your worried about a duck that is happy and safe this sickens me for someone to put up such a stink over a duck maybe if more time was invested into the problems in vt than a duck it would be a better place. and anybody involved over thying to take these folks duck away needs there head examined explain to me what the big deal over a duck its not like its a endangered species you can buy them at tractor supply so prove the duck is wild I will also stand behind this family and do what ever it takes to save there loving pet so you better start going to every farm and make sure there are no wild animals that are happy so lets start investing millions in doing this will make vt better good luck. vt is becoming a very sick state.

Jared McMahan

Date: 3/30/2016 7:54:48 PM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

I would like to take a moment to advise you on my feelings regarding Peep the duck. I do not think the government should get involved in this matter what so ever. The duck is happy and his family is happy. Leave them alone. You should inform the authorities to do the same as you advised them to do when it comes to illegal aliens, Look the other way. The duck will not harm anyone and the illegals will. Thank you

Val S. Babcock

Date: 3/30/2016 6:58:53 PM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Please leave the duck "peep" with its caretakers. I have had birds my whole life and they imprint on those that raise them. The duck thinks this family is his family. It would be cruel to take the duck away for the duck and for the family.

The humane thing to do is to leave the duck with the family. I do understand that it is not per regulation to allow it but this is one situation where an exception is in order. The duck really is happy there. To reintroduce it into the wild at this point would only mean its death. It could not survive.

Please have a heart and just let it stay.

Thank you,  
Donna Rose

Date: 3/30/2016 6:27:08 PM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Taking Peep away from his family is just not right. He has been with them since a baby and doesn't know how to be in the wild. He's not living in an apartment in the city. He should be allowed to stay right where he is.

Deborah Adams

Date: 3/30/2016 2:06:36 PM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Do you really think releasing a domesticated duck back into the wild is anything but a death sentence for the poor little thing??? He is fed, cared for, not altered physically or made to stay where he is, but he is feels safe! Why can you not focus on more important things before you leave office??? Like childcare issues, esp. the new regs coming down to us workers, how about the budget??? Have you ever had to live within a budget??? How about your fish&game people that all took such wonderful pics holding the bear cubs?? Was that necessary?? What if their mom refused them after waking up to the human scent they all had?? There are so many things you could really be focusing on right now, so leave the duck alone, where he is alive... last thing you need on your hands is a dead duck!

Karen Hebert

Date: 3/30/2016 10:49:59 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Governor Shumlin:

I am writing to you regarding the recent WCAX News story about "Peep", the wood duck. I have also encouraged many via Facebook to contact you as well, so you may be receiving many emails or calls, if you have not been already.

I do need to address a couple of points from your televised response to this issue last evening on WCAX. First, you made a statement in the vein of "nobody is talking about ending this animal's life". Actually, they have. The Game Warden interviewed last week did say that Peep would be tested, and if found to be sick, would be euthanized. Secondly, I noticed a hesitation before you used the words "the duck's present keepers" rather than "the duck's family. I did feel these words were very carefully and deliberately chosen in a strategic attempt to "de-personalize" the issue. I was very disappointed when I saw that moment. The fact is, Peep is a member of this "family".

Peep, the "pet" wood duck, is about to seized from the family who have raised

him since he was a wet duckling fresh out of the egg. I am so saddened, and even outraged by this decision. The action planned to remove this beautiful animal from the only family and love he has ever known, with a plan to be "rehabilitated" and either returned to the wild OR forced to live out his life at the rehabilitation center if it is determined he can not be set free, is a miscarriage of justice. I understand there are laws, and those laws are in place for a reason. However, many laws in Vermont, and elsewhere, are often bent for "special circumstances". I think Peep's situation qualifies as one of these. Such exceptions are made for far more heinous crimes, such as the WCAX news item here:

"Monday, Allen Draper pleaded guilty to four felonies for hurting the baby, making threats and violating abuse prevention orders. Vt. Superior Court Judge Michael Kainen sentenced him to just 30 days behind bars, pointing out Allen Draper was quick to own up to the crimes, and he suffers a medical condition that would make jail difficult. "I think justice has been met," Caledonia County State's Attorney Lisa Warren said. "I would have liked to have seen more time, but as the judge indicated and that was what factored into my decision was the 30 days was a good amount of time for him to serve in jail." This was for the physical abuse of a 3 month old baby!

This duck has never had his wings clipped, is let outside to fly whenever he wishes, and he has always come back to the family. He has known no other life--this is all he knows. He does not know how to live in the wild, how to live among other ducks, how to avoid predators, how to find his own food. Can a duck who has lived this life, for this long, really ever be prepared to be released into the wild? His now inherent trust of humans puts him danger, as he could fly right to a duck hunter. Could a puppy raised by humans since his weaning be "rehabilitated" to a wild life after years of being raised, nurtured and having all his needs met by humans? If he is happy where he is, should he be?

If the day ever comes when Peep decides to leave--maybe enticed by a female wood duck--he can and will leave of his own accord. At that pint, his fate is his own. His family will be sad to see him go, but they will find comfort in the fact that leaving was his choice. But to have him ripped away from them when he shows no sign whatsoever that is something he desires, is just cruel.

Animals feel emotion, as do humans, and everyone involved in this situation will be traumatically effected, not just the family who love him, but Peep himself. Forced sudden separation is traumatic, and can change the very understanding and manner of an animal. Peep could be become depressed, angry, carry feelings of abandonment--and that's just what he will face. The

family will be losing one of their members. If you have ever had a pet--be it dog, cat, rodent, bird, etc--then you must understand how the loss of that pet can feel.

I applaud the positive work The Department of Fish and Wildlife does for our wildlife and protecting our natural resources. Likewise, I appreciate the work that you do, and the often tough decisions you have to make. So okay--maybe a wild wood duck should not be a pet, and a Vermont law supports that. But, is that really true and appropriate for EVERY situation. Now, I agree 100% that an older wild duck should never be captured and turned into a pet. But that is not what happened here. Peep was a tiny newborn duckling who, without this family, would have never survived to even be involved in this polarizing, heartbreaking situation. Can't some concession be made. Can't this family receive some judgement which would allow them to remain a family. Isn't there a way they can keep this adored and adorable duck, who so obviously feels loved and safe in his current environment?

I truly hope something can be done to stop this plan for separation.

Thank you for your attention, and hopefully your consideration,

Brett Thompson

Date: 3/30/2016 10:24:34 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Please reconsider your decision to remove the wood duck, Peep, from his home. That family saved his life. He is free to come and go and fly away if he so chooses. How can you feel it is in the duck's best interest if he is removed from the only family he has ever known. He doesn't need to be rehabilitated and die of loneliness in the process.

You have prohibited state employees from going to NC as a stand for human rights. Please take a HUMANE stand for Peep.

Lisa Santor

Date: 3/30/2016 9:45:33 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Leave Peep alone. The duck will only be euthanized if you take him from its home. That is complete inhuman. Gosh, you just have nothing good in your soul do you? Wow, you really are low of the low. First you go after a mental challenged man, DODGE, for his land. Now you are taking a helpless duck from its home? Wow, you are a horrible selfish man.

Look at all the people that are supporting PEEP? Do the right thing for once! Seriously man, you are just a soul less man.

Kate Hennessey

Date: 3/30/2016 8:23:59 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

I am shocked and disgusted that you are actually considering trying to return a duck that is clearly domesticated into the wild. It is a death sentence for an animal that does not need to happen. This. Is also not being held captive it can leave anytime it wants and it obviously wants to stay with his family. They're bigger things you can worry about in this day and age other than this.?

Jenny Parker

Date: 3/30/2016 6:30:17 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

please let the people with the duck, keep the duck.  
you could give it a pardon, like they do with the turkeys on thanksgiving.  
overlook this. they love that duck, and it appears he likes them too. for goodness sakes, let this go.

Lisa Hilliker

Date: 3/29/2016 7:53:50 PM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Peep should be allowed to stay with the people who saved his life years ago and he is now giving back to them.  
As a lame duck yourself -- you should be able to see the value of allowing one to be so well taken care of.

Linda Reeve

Date: 3/29/2016 8:08:37 PM  
To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>  
Cc:  
Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the duck story end with Vermont's Governor being the hero in this story? With all the sadness in this world, we all need a little happiness.

Julie Nicoll

Date: 3/29/2016 7:29:31 PM  
To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>  
Cc:  
Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

I wish the State would leave Peep with the family it lives with. The WCAX reports show a VERY happy family with a wood duck that is an integral part of that family/household. The Fish and Wildlife Department certainly has sooo many more important things to do to protect Vermont wildlife. This is sooo wasteful and I do NOT want to see my tax dollars squandered on this excessive example of bureaucracy in action. Perhaps the Republicans are correct when they decry over regulation. In this case I see no other way to view same. The F&W individual who feels the need to remove Peep is an extremist. All he will do is break hearts and make adults and children cry, and waste taxpayer time and money. Let's get on to serious work. I'll sign off as this issue is getting me mad.

William Corbett

Date: 3/27/2016 12:31:56 PM  
To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>  
Cc:  
Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

I am writing you to ask That Peep the Duck be pardon, I really think at the age of 3 that The duck should stay where it wants, The duck goes outside and is Free to leave But chooses to stay with the Only family it has Known, I obey the Laws in this State But I do believe in this case A pardon is in Order, there are so many other things in this State that Our Taxpayers Dollars should be used for, The Pouching of Deer to me is a much bigger Problem, Maybe some type of Fine could be imposed for any one Haboring a wild Animal as with several Vermonters I have talked with they feel as I do and Believe me I as with them Do Not want a wood Duck, I Thank who ever reads this For their Time its my Understanding They CAN AND that is can Live longer than 4 years But for the most P[art 4 years is Life Expectancy of a wood Duck, !! The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated. Mahatma Gandhi Or the greatness of a State . Once again Thanks For your Time , Sincerely

Deborah Murphy

Date: 3/30/2016 8:38:08 AM

To: "governorvt@state.vt.us" <governorvt@state.vt.us>

Cc:

Subject: Form submission from: Send a Message to Governor Peter Shumlin

Hi My name is Jodi, I'm the daughter of Kimberlee Stevens who is fighting to keep her wood duck. Can you please think real hard about what you are doing. If you take him away he will die and my mom will probably have an anxiety attack and a broken heart. What good is it going to do to take him away? he can leave when he wants. He was outside all day Monday flying around and plying in mud puddles. He can leave if he wants to but he chooses not to. You never know he may decide to leave but that should be his choice. he should not be taken from the only home he knows. Please let her keep the duck. You really should worry about bigger issues to take care of then taking a healthy duck away from his family. I'm begging you to think about this. there has to be a way for you to pardon the duck and let him stay where he is. He will choose when it is time to leave.... This is really stressing my family out. we cant sleep, we are constantly worrying about him being taken away from us. my mom has been having chest pains and has to take a nitro to feel better. You are killing us. I cant believe you would even consider taking peep away. Please Help us KEEP him. PLEASE

Jodi May