

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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January 10, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dr. Lawrence Tabak
Acting Director
U.S. National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, M.D. 20892

Dear Secretary Becerra and Acting Director Tabak:

On January 6, 2022, Adrienne Hallett, Associate Director for Legislative Policy and Analysis at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), sent me a letter explaining that NIH sent EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth) two letters regarding its work in China. These letters specifically addressed EcoHealth's grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. NIH did not produce these letters to me. NIH's rationale for not providing these letters is unclear since these letters fall within the scope of the Republicans' ongoing investigation.¹

NIH's failure to include the underlying documents is unacceptable. By continuing to refuse to be forthcoming with Republicans, your agencies are hiding information that will help inform the origins of the ongoing pandemic and respond to future pandemics. This lack of transparency strongly suggests NIH has something to hide.

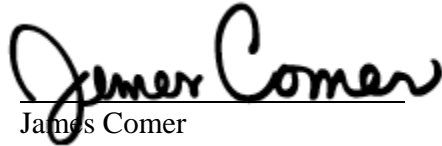
Since these letters are readily accessible—NIH sent them just last week—I request you produce them immediately, but no later than January 11, 2022. As you will no doubt agree, these letters fall within the scope of my May 28, 2021, and July 15, 2021, letters invoking 5 U.S.C. § 2954, referred to as the Seven Member rule.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

¹ Letter from James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform & Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Francis Collins, Dir., Nat'l Inst. of Health & Anthony Fauci, Dir., Nat'l Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (May 28, 2021); Letter from James Comer, *et.al.*, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Francis Collins, Dir., Nat'l Inst. Of Health & Anthony Fauci, Dir., Nat'l Inst. Of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (Jul. 15, 2021).

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Dr. Lawrence Tabak
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight Reform

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform