

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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March 10, 2022

Ms. Dana Remus
Counsel to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Remus:

Over one month ago, on February 7, 2022, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology made a bipartisan request for a copy of the investigative report regarding Dr. Eric Lander and other senior leadership at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).¹ On February 9, 2022, House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans similarly wrote you to request documents and information from the White House regarding the resignation of Dr. Lander and the toxic work environment he created at OSTP.² To date, neither Committee has received a written response.

The White House Counsel's Office (WHCO) apparently had knowledge of many of the allegations against Dr. Lander since February 2021 but failed to remedy the issues for nearly a year. The investigation WHCO finally conducted did not lead to significant action. Dr. Lander did not resign until *Politico* made the allegations public.³ However, the investigative report detailing the toxic work environment at OSTP has never been released to Congress or the public. This is concerning because some of the senior leadership implicated in the report still work at OSTP.

WHCO's apparent decision to subvert congressional oversight is troubling. We renew our request for all the documents and information requested on February 7 and 9, 2022. Please provide these documents as soon as possible but no later than March 24, 2022:

1. Any reports describing violations of the White House or OSTP Safe and Respectful Workplace Policy by any member of OSTP's staff;

¹ Letter from Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chair, and Hon. Frank D. Lucas, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Sci., Space, and Tech., to Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America (Feb. 7, 2022).

² Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, and Hon. Ralph Norman, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Env., to Ms. Dana Remus, Counsel to the President, the White House (Feb. 9, 2022).

³ Alex Thompson, *Biden's top science advisor bullied and demeaned subordinates, according to White House investigation*, POLITICO (Feb. 7, 2022).

2. All documents and communications, from January 20, 2021, to present, related to final decisions by WHCO not to pursue allegations of a toxic work environment or bullying in any White House component;
3. All documents and communications from January 20, 2021, to present, related to any background check the White House conducted on Director Lander; and
4. All communications between WHCO referring or relating to the allegations reported on by *Politico*.

To ask any follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. 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 for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space and
Technology



Ralph Norman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

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

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space and Technology

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment