

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2022

Mr. Peter Daszak, Ph.D.  
President  
EcoHealth Alliance  
460 West 34th Street, 17th Floor  
New York, New York 10001

Dear Dr. Daszak:

Since April 2, 2020, Committee Republicans have been investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) role in obscuring the truth regarding the initial outbreak, and whether any U.S. taxpayer dollars funded the Wuhan Institute of Virology's (WIV) dangerous gain-of-function research.<sup>1</sup> We have sent numerous letters to the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). To date, these requests have either been ignored or the responses have been insufficient. As the WIV's partner with insight into the activity at that facility, your future cooperation is vital to our investigation.

During the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, this investigation will be a priority for the Committee but also the global community. As stated by 18 experts in *Science* magazine, "[k]nowing how COVID-19 emerged is critical for informing global strategies to mitigate the risk of future outbreaks."<sup>2</sup> Further, according to the *Lancet* COVID-19 Commission, "[i]dentifying [COVID-19's] origins would provide greater clarity into not only the causes of the current pandemic but also vulnerabilities to future outbreaks and strategies to prevent them."<sup>3</sup> The origins of the disease that has taken the lives of more than six million people is still unknown.<sup>4</sup> Uncovering the truth about the origins of COVID-19 is vital to U.S. national security, critical to the prevention of future pandemics, and will bring some semblance of closure to the families of those who lost loved ones during the pandemic.

Because you and your organization have been at the center of the pandemic since its inception, your documents and testimony are essential to informing the Committee about what the U.S. government knew regarding the origins of COVID-19 and when the government knew it.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al., Ranking Member, Subcomm. on the Environment, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Hon. Michael R. Pompeo, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of State (Apr. 2, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Jesse D. Bloom, et. al., *Investigate the origins of COVID-19*, SCIENCE (May 14, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> Jeffrey D. Sachs, et. al., *The Lancet Commission on lessons learned for the future from the COVID-19 pandemic*, THE LANCET (Sept. 14, 2022).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* ("Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover remain viable.") ("...hypothesis about both natural and laboratory spillovers are in play and need further investigation.").

To assist the Committee with its investigation, including but not limited to areas involving the origins of COVID-19 and the CCP's efforts to cover it up, please produce the following documents and information as soon as possible but no later than December 27, 2022:

1. All calendars from November 1, 2019, through present for the following individuals:
  - a. Dr. Peter Daszak;
  - b. Dr. Aleksei Chmura;
  - c. Dr. Kevin Olival;
  - d. Dr. Armine Arustamyan; and
  - e. Dr. Hume Field.
2. All phone records from November 1, 2019, through present for the following individuals:
  - a. Dr. Peter Daszak;
  - b. Dr. Aleksei Chmura;
  - c. Dr. Kevin Olival;
  - d. Dr. Armine Arustamyan; and
  - e. Dr. Hume Field.
3. All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates and the Wuhan Institute of Virology or any other Chinese entity engaged in research or other work related to grant R01AI110964.
4. All documents and communications between or among any agency or federal entity, or any sub-agencies, sub-awardees, or affiliates and EcoHealth Alliance, or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates, regarding grant R01AI110964.
5. All documents and communications regarding EcoHealth's proposal to the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency for the project entitled PREEMPT.
6. All documents and communications regarding the Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Framework, including but not limited to the creation and formation of the Framework, the membership of the Board, and the referral or lack thereof of any EcoHealth grant to the Board.
7. All documents and communications regarding the U.S. government instituted gain-of-function pause, including but not limited to communications regarding stopping or pausing any of EcoHealth's grants.
8. All documents and communications regarding the letter in *The Lancet* entitled "Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19."

Further, we request that you preserve all documents and communications related to the above requests, including any documents and communications in your custody or control.

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Therefore, to allow a full and complete record of these documents to be produced at a later date, please:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) created since January 1, 2014, related to SARS-CoV-2, gain-of-function research, the Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Framework, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the origins of COVID-19 generally. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records as well as negligent or intentional handling in a manner that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, including subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records in an effort to ensure these records are to be preserved; and,
3. If it is the routine practice of any employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such documents or electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

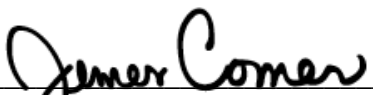
Lastly, please contact Committee staff to schedule transcribed interviews for the following individuals.

1. Dr. Peter Daszak, President;
2. Dr. Aleksei Chmura, Chief of Staff;
3. Dr. Kevin Olival, Vice President for Research;
4. Dr. Armine Arustamyan, Chief Financial Officer; and
5. Dr. Hume Field, Science and Policy Advisor.

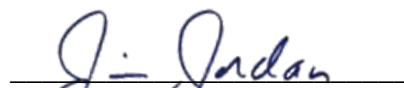
The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. To ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at 202-225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

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

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary