

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2022

The Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Director Haines:

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.¹ 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 Director of National Intelligence and leader of the Intelligence Community (IC), your future cooperation is vital to our investigation.

During the 118th 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.”² 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.”³ The origins of the disease that has taken the lives of more than six million people is still unknown.⁴ 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 the IC has been directly involved in evaluating the origins of COVID-19, 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.

¹ 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).

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

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

⁴ *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.”).

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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:

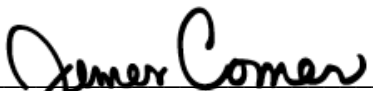
1. A list of all non-governmental experts, including their affiliations, consulted in the preparation, formulation, or drafting of the Assessment on COVID-19 Origins.
2. A list of all pre-prints, peer reviewed, or otherwise published research or scholarly papers, articles, or manuscripts consulted or used in the preparation, formulation, or drafting of the Assessment on COVID-19 Origins.
3. All documents and communications relied upon in the preparation, formulation, and drafting of the Assessment.
4. All documents and communications regarding intelligence gathered by the following agencies regarding a mysterious pneumonia or illness in China, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., or COVID-19:
 - a. Central Intelligence Agency;
 - b. Defense Intelligence Agency;
 - c. Federal Bureau of Investigation;
 - d. Department of Energy technical analysis division; and
 - e. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

Additionally, we request an immediate classified briefing with representatives from: the Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, Department of Energy's Office of Counter Intelligence, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

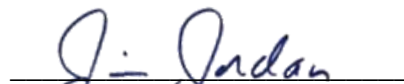
The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. To ask any follow-up or related questions and to schedule a briefing, please contact the Committee on Oversight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