

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2023

The Honorably Antony J. Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is investigating the origins of COVID-19. Since April 2, 2020, Committee on Oversight and Accountability Republicans have been investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s 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 The Select Subcommittee is now the only Committee in Congress with explicit jurisdiction to conduct this wide-ranging and important investigation.

This investigation will be a priority for the Select Subcommittee 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.

Your Department has been at the center of the origins debate, especially U.S. and CCP relations, interaction with the World Health Organization (WHO), and work with the Intelligence Community (IC) Therefore 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.”).

To assist the Select Subcommittee 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 March 13, 2023:

The Origins of COVID-19

1. All documents and communications, including cables, between or among employees of the Department of State regarding the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., gain-of-function research, enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogen research, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the Wuhan Center[s] for Disease Prevention and Control from October 2019 through present.
2. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, or the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases regarding the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., gain-of-function research, enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogen research, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the Wuhan Center[s] for Disease Prevention and Control from October 2019 through present.
3. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of State and the Executive Office of the President, including but not limited to the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Security Council, regarding the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., gain-of-function research, enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogen research, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the Wuhan Center[s] for Disease Prevention and Control from October 2019 through present.
4. All documents and communications regarding a trip by Dr. Cliff Lane to China on or about February 2020.
5. All documents and communications regarding a trip to the Wuhan Institute of Virology by Dr. Ping Chen on or about October 2017.
6. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of state and the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
7. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of state and the Wuhan Center[s] for Disease Prevention and Control.
8. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of State and EcoHealth Alliance, Inc (including its predecessors: the Wildlife Preservation Trust or The Wild Life Trust).
9. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of State and the following regarding the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.,

gain-of-function research, enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogen research, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the Wuhan Center[s] for Disease Prevention and Control:

- a. The Wellcome Trust, including but not limited to Dr. Jeremy Farrar;
- b. University of Texas Medical Branch, including but not limited to Dr. James LeDuc;
- c. John Hopkins Center for Health Security, including but not limited to Dr. Tom Inglesby;
- d. Scripps Research, including but not limited to Dr. Kristian Andersen or Dr. Michael Farzan;
- e. University of North Carolina, including but not limited to Dr. Ralph Baric or Ms. Antoinette Baric;
- f. Tulane University, including but not limited to Dr. Robert Garry;
- g. Columbia University, including but not limited to Dr. W. Ian Lipkin;
- h. University of Edinburgh, including but not limited to Dr. Andrew Rambaut; and
- i. University of Sydney, including but not limited to Dr. Edward Holmes.

The Department's Investigation Into the Origins of COVID-19

10. All documents and communications, including but not limited to the underlying source material, regarding the January 15, 2021, document entitled, "Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology."
11. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of State, the Executive office of the President, or the Office of Director of National Intelligence regarding the canceling, termination, or de-establishment of an internal, Department of State inquiry that was organized and staffed primarily by the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance into the origins of COVID-19 from January 2021 to the present.

The March 26, 2020, Analytical Exchange Report

12. All documents and communications regarding the March 26, 2020, Analytical Exchange Report prepared by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research entitled, "Scientific Evidence on the Origins of the Novel Coronavirus," including but not limited to:

- a. notwithstanding Chatham House Rules, a list of all non-governmental experts, including their titles, affiliations, and applicable levels of security clearance, that were consulted or otherwise participated in the preparation of the Analytical Exchange;
- b. notwithstanding Chatham House Rules, a list of all U.S. government personnel, including their titles, affiliations, and applicable levels of security clearance, that were consulted or otherwise participated in the preparation of the analytical Exchange;
- c. all documents and communications regarding the scheduling, preparation, and results of the Analytical Exchange; and
- d. any classified versions of the Analytical Exchange.

The World Health Organization's Investigations Into the Origins of COVID-19

13. All documents and communications regarding the World Health Organization's report entitled, "Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)."
14. All documents and communications regarding the World Health Organization's report entitled, "WHO-convened Global Study of the Origins of SARS-CoV-2: Terms of Reference for the China Part."
15. All documents and communications regarding the World Health Organization's report entitled, "WHO-convened Global Study of SARS-CoV-2: China Part."
16. All documents and communications regarding the World Health Organization's report entitled, "Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO): Preliminary Report of the SAGO."

The Department's Intelligence Assessments

17. All classified and unclassified assessments of the origins of COVID-19 prepared by the Department of State from January 2020 through present.
18. A list of all non-governmental experts, including their affiliations, consulted in the preparation, formulation, or drafting of any assessment regarding the origins of COVID-19, disaggregated by which assessment the experts consulted on.
19. 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 any assessment regarding the origins of COVID-19, disaggregated by which assessment the sources were used.

20. All classified documents, communications, cables, reports, or other materials relied upon in the preparation, formulation, and drafting of any assessment regarding the origins of COVID-19, disaggregated by which assessment the sources were used.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s Origins Assessment

21. All documents and communications between or among employees of Department of State regarding the Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s Assessment on COVID-19 Origins.
22. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Department of State and any component of the Intelligence Community regarding the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., gain-of-function research, enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogen research, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the Wuhan Center[s] for Disease Prevention and Control.

In addition to the requested documents, the Select Subcommittee may request employees of your Department sit for transcribed interviews.

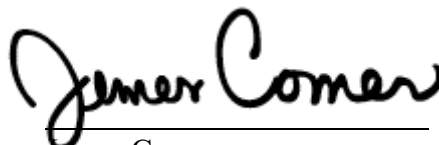
The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is authorized to investigate “the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic, including but not limited to the Federal Government’s funding of gain-of function research” and “executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus pandemic” under H. Res. 5. Further, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability is authorized to investigate “any matter” at “any time” pursuant to House Rule X. To schedule the interviews or ask any follow up or related questions please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Chairman
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Pandemic



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Accountability

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability