

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2023

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

Dear Dr. Daszak:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce (“the Committees”) are jointly investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the beginning of this Congress, the Committees sent requests for responsive documents and communications from the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS” or the “Department”), specifically but not limited to documents in the custody of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

We have a Constitutional duty to conduct thorough oversight and evaluate legislative solutions to address deficiencies as well as engrain proficiencies within the federal government. The Committees will use this investigation to inform potential legislation to improve pandemic preparedness, strengthen grant processes and oversight, and enhance biosafety and biosecurity of laboratory and field research. This may also include amending or strengthening current criminal laws regarding defrauding the United States.

Pursuant to the terms of the Select Subcommittee’s February 13, 2023 letter and the Committee on Energy and Commerce’s February 2, 2023 letter, we reiterate our previous request that you testify at a voluntary transcribed interview on November 14, 2023.

If you are unable to participate on the requested date, please inform the Committees at least one week prior. If you decline to testify voluntarily, the Committees will be forced to consider the use of the compulsory process.

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. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is authorized to investigate “any matter” at “any time” pursuant to House Rule X. The Committee on Energy and Commerce is the authorizing committee with jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities for public health service agencies, including the NIH and the entities it funds, as well as federal biomedical research and development.

Further, House Rule XI clause 2(m)(1)(B) grants Committees of the House of Representatives with the authority “to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents as it considers necessary.”

Sincerely,



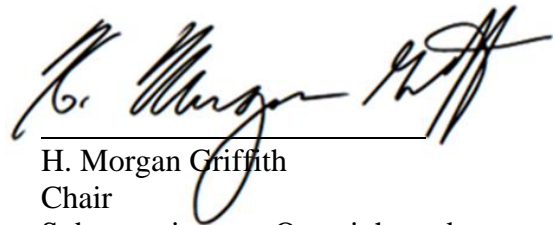
Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Chairman
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Pandemic



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Accountability



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and
Commerce



H. Morgan Griffith
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations



Brett Guthrie
Chair
Subcommittee on Health

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

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

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

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The Honorable Kathy Castor, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Health