

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074  
Minority (202) 225-5051

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Blinken:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (Select Subcommittee) is investigating the origins of COVID-19. Since April 2, 2020, Committee on Oversight and Accountability Republicans have investigated 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> On February 27, 2023 we wrote to the Department requesting information pertinent to this investigation.<sup>2</sup>

Pursuant to that letter, the Department recently produced classified documents to the Select Subcommittee that were previously released in an unclassified and highly redacted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) production to U.S. Right to Know.<sup>3</sup> These documents contain highly pertinent information that credibly suggests:

- 1) COVID-19 originated from a lab-related accident in Wuhan, China;
- 2) The CCP acted to prevent, and in fact obstructed, a fulsome investigation into these matters; and
- 3) A seamless relationship between the WIV and the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

The American people deserve to see the information that is hidden under these redactions.

---

<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> Letter from Hon. Brad Wenstrup, Chairman, Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Pandemic, H. Comm on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Antony Blinken, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of State (Feb. 27, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Emily Kopp, *State Department Cables: Wuhan Institute of Virology conducted classified research*, U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW (June 14, 2023).

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
May 7, 2024  
Page 2

We write to you today to request that you immediately take steps to declassify this information such that the American people have a more complete picture of the government's evidence regarding the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure that these documents are expeditiously reviewed for declassification, the highly redacted FOIA versions are enclosed. In addition to the rapid commencement of a declassification review, the Select Subcommittee requests a staff level briefing to occur before May 14, 2024.

This briefing was previously requested on April 24, 2024 with the goal of it occurring prior to the Select Subcommittee's hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.—and known WIV collaborator—Dr. Peter Daszak. However, the Department responded that it could not support a briefing on that timeline.

The Select Subcommittee 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.<sup>4</sup> To 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 Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Chairman

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

Enclosures:

1. Redacted State Dep't cable DTG 200917Z Jul 20
2. Redacted State Dep't cable DTG 040700Z Aug 20

---

<sup>4</sup> H. Res. 5 § 4(a)(2023).