



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 7, 2021

The Honorable
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. McMorris Rodgers:

Thank you for your May 6 letter and interest and support for a comprehensive investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. Let me assure you that the Department of State and the Administration share your belief that we need a robust and transparent investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. An impartial investigation into the origins and early spread of any novel outbreak is vital to protecting against future health security threats.

The world continues to have serious questions about the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its origins. The type of information that would allow the world to distinguish the precise manner by which the SARS-CoV-2 virus was transmitted to humans, whether through a zoonotic jump in nature or as a consequence of a laboratory accident, is now over a year and a half old. The U.S. government continues to press for an effective and thorough “phase 2” investigation by the World Health Organization.

As President Biden announced on May 26, he has tasked the Intelligence Community to redouble its efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion about the origins of COVID-19. As part of that report, he has asked for further areas of inquiry that may be required, including specific questions for China, and that this effort include work by our National Labs and other agencies of the government to augment the Intelligence Community's efforts.

President Biden has committed to keep working with like-minded partners around the world to press China to participate in a full, transparent, evidence-based international investigation and to provide access to all relevant data and evidence.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naz Durakoglu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and "D".

Naz Durakoglu
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

Identical letter to:

Brett Guthrie

Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith

Member of Congress

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