



**Homeland
Security**

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative McMorris Rodgers:

Thank you for your May 21, 2021 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting a classified briefing into the origins of SARS CoV-2 as well as the work at the National Bioforensic Analysis Center (NBFAC) and the National Biological Threat Characterization Center (NBTCC) on any work on and/or related to the origins of SARS-CoV-2. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

The Department is committed to addressing the very real threats posed by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and looks forward to continuing our efforts with your leadership and support. The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC), which contains both the NBFAC and the NBTCC, are managed under DHS's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). The NBFAC conducts its technical work at the direction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and we respectfully request that you direct your questions regarding work done by the NBFAC to the FBI. NBTCC has not conducted studies on the origins of SARS-CoV-2. For the work we have conducted related to SARS-CoV-2, we routinely engage with interagency partners and coordinate our technical portfolios.

Thank you again for your inquiry. A separate but identical response will be provided to the cosigners of your letter. Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Coulter Mitchell".

Kathryn Coulter Mitchell
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Under Secretary