October 5, 2021

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We wrote to you on May 6, 2021, requesting your assistance in our inquiry into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. We requested that the U.S. Department of State release unclassified documents and declassify other documents for public release, as appropriate, related to the assertion in the Department’s January 15, 2021, Fact Sheet that the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) in Wuhan, China collaborated with the Chinese military in conducting classified research, including laboratory animal experiments.1

The Department’s January 15 Fact Sheet noted that the WIV has collaborated on “secret projects” with the People’s Liberation Army. Further, the Fact Sheet claimed that “[d]espite the WIV presenting itself as a civilian institution, the United States has determined that the WIV has collaborated on publications and secret projects with China’s military. The WIV has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017.”2

The Department’s response dated July 7, 2021, did not directly address our request, and cited the then ongoing 90-day review by the Intelligence Community ordered by President Biden. Given that this review has concluded, we would ask that the Department of State please provide an update by October 19, 2021 concerning the January 15 Fact Sheet claim that the WIV has collaborated on publications and secret projects with China’s military. This is a very straightforward request, and we would appreciate a direct answer on whether the State

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2 Id.
Department continues to maintain that the WIV has collaborated on secret projects with China’s military.

Please respond by October 19, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Alan Slobodin or Diane Cutler of the Minority Committee staff.

Sincerely,

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health

H. Morgan Griffith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman
    The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Chair, Subcommittee on Health
    The Honorable Diana DeGette, Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations