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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

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.<sup>1</sup>

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."<sup>2</sup>

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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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology*, Office of the Spokesperson (Jan. 15, 2021) available at <https://2017-2021.state.gov/fact-sheet-activity-at-the-wuhan-institute-of-virology/index.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

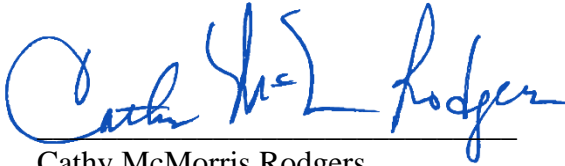
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Department continues to maintain that the WIV has collaborated on secret projects with China's military.

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

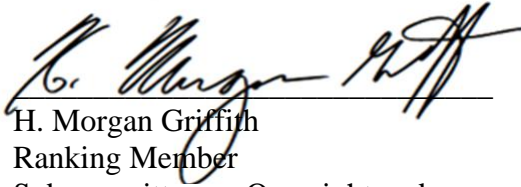
Sincerely,



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