



March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

On behalf of White Coat Waste Project and New England Antivivisection Society's nearly 500,000 combined members and supporters, we are writing to request your leadership to reduce funding for wasteful Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) animal testing and promote more efficient and cost-effective testing alternatives in your FY 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Our new analysis of recently-published animal testing at EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) has revealed troubling taxpayer-funded projects that include:

- animals implanted with devices and forced to breathe diesel exhaust and smog
- animals force-fed lard to make them obese and then exposed to air pollution
- animals fed olive and coconut oil and forced to breathe ozone
- animals blasted with loud noises and exposed to ozone
- pregnant animals stressed with light and noise and babies given electric shocks

These and similar EPA animal tests are expensive, time consuming and inapplicable to human health, translating into misleading results and millions of wasted tax dollars each year. Recognizing this, earlier this month, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt reaffirmed the agency's dedication, "toward reducing the use of animals and increasing the use of cutting-edge science to ensure chemicals are reviewed for safety with the highest scientific standards."

This is an issue with widespread bipartisan support from American taxpayers. A February 2018 national poll of 1,000 voters conducted by Lincoln Park Strategies (LPS) found that 79 percent of Republican voters and 68 percent of Democrat voters support efforts to cut federal spending on EPA animal testing specifically. Similarly, a March 2017 LPS national poll found that 75 percent of Republicans and 73 percent of Democrats want the EPA to replace animal tests with high-tech alternatives.

We urge the committee to reduce funding for EPA NHEERL animal testing and to strongly encourage a rapid EPA transition to more efficient, economical and effective research tools like computer modeling, cell- and tissue-based testing, and organs-on-a-chip that produce results that better protect people, animals and the environment.

We thank the subcommittee for its leadership on this issue and are available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Justin Goodman
Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy
White Coat Waste Project

Nathan Herschler
Executive Director
New England Antivivisection Society