

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Samantha Power
Administrator
United States Agency of International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Administrator Power:

We write regarding the recent federal funding awarded by the U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) to EcoHealth Alliance Inc. (EcoHealth), a New York-based non-profit organization led by Dr. Peter Daszak. We are deeply concerned by this award given EcoHealth and Dr. Daszak's troubling record of failing to report findings from federally funded research, refusing to cooperate with congressional oversight of federal funding awarded to the organization, and collaborating with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), the likely origin site of the COVID-19 pandemic, on dangerous research experiments involving viruses manipulated to increase transmission in humans.

Between 2009 and May 2019, USAID's global PREDICT, a project of USAID's Emerging Pandemic Threats Program provided \$1.1 million to EcoHealth for a sub-agreement with the WIV to advance research on critical viruses that may pose harm to human and animal health.¹ From 2011 to 2021, public information available from foreignassistance.gov shows that USAID provided \$2.5 million in funding to EcoHealth through the Infectious Disease Emergence and Economics of Altered Landscapes Project.

Most recently, on October 26, 2021, EcoHealth was awarded a five-year grant for \$4.7 million for overseas foreign assistance programs.² This is the largest amount awarded by USAID to EcoHealth in the last 10 years.

EcoHealth has a concerning history of failing to comply with federal reporting requirements. In October 2021, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reported that EcoHealth did not report findings from federally funded studies on how well bat coronaviruses grow in mice.³ NIH demanded EcoHealth submit all unpublished data within five days under a multiyear grant it was awarded in 2014.⁴

Additionally, EcoHealth failed to publicly disclose subawards to the WIV until they received a July 8, 2020 letter of suspension from the NIH.⁵ Only then did the organization provide reports on WIV subawards from 2015 to 2019.⁶ This behavior is especially concerning given any search on the public database usaspending.gov would not show EcoHealth's funding of the WIV until July 2020.

¹<https://reschenthaler.house.gov/sites/reschenthaler.house.gov/files/Rep.%20Reschenthaler%20EcoHealth%20RESPONSE.pdf>

²https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_72066921CA00006_7200

³<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/21/science/bats-covid-lab-leak-nih.html>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵<https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/06.10.21-Letter-to-NIH-Director-Collins.pdf>

⁶ *Id.*

Dr. Daszak has also provided inaccurate statements and withheld vital information about the research conducted at the WIV. In December 2020, Dr. Daszak falsely claimed that no live bats were held at the WIV.⁷ However, video taken in May 2017 by the Chinese Academy of Sciences shows footage of live bats inside the facility.⁸

In February 2020, Dr. Daszak, along with 26 other cosigners, published a letter denying the potential that COVID-19 could have originated in a lab.⁹ However, Dr. Daszak, whose organization has collaborated on coronavirus research at the WIV for years, failed to admit this conflict of interest for more than a year.¹⁰

Most recently, it came to light that Dr. Daszak opposed the public release of COVID-19-related virus sequence data gathered from China as part of USAID's PREDICT program.¹¹ Emails released as part of a California Public Records Act request to the University of California, Davis detail that Dr. Daszak and EcoHealth employee Hongying Li held off on uploading virus sequence data to GenBank, the public genetic sequence database, because any relevant data publication "needs to be reviewed and approved by the institution in China."¹²

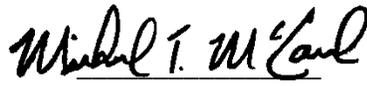
Given EcoHealth's troubling history and Dr. Daszak's outright lies, we are alarmed that USAID awarded a new grant project to the organization late last year. We respectfully request answers to the following questions:

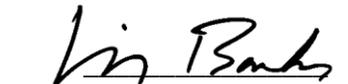
1. Did USAID consider EcoHealth's collaboration with the WIV and compliance failures, as well as the troubling conduct of Dr. Daszak, when awarding the organization \$4.7 million in taxpayer dollars?
2. Will EcoHealth subcontract with any foreign labs on this research?
3. The Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 117-81), which was signed into law by President Joe Biden on December 27, 2021, included a provision prohibiting any funding that the Department of Defense may provide to EcoHealth from being used in China on research supported by the government of China. Will USAID also prohibit EcoHealth from using federal funding to support research in the People's Republic of China?

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your prompt response.

Very respectfully,


Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress


Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress


Jim Banks
Member of Congress

⁷ <https://dailycaller.com/2021/06/14/wuhan-institute-virology-bats-covid-19-coronavirus/>

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30418-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30418-9/fulltext)

¹⁰ <https://www.foxnews.com/media/lancet-coronavirus-lab-leak-theory-conspiracy-conflict-interest-daszak>

¹¹ <https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/ecohealth-alliance-wanted-to-block-disclosure-of-covid-19-relevant-virus-data-from-china/>

¹² *Id.*



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



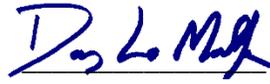
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



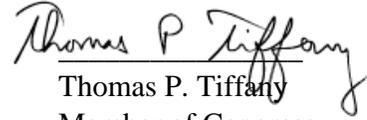
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



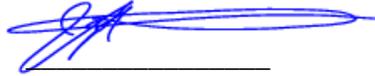
Doug LaMalfa
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Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew, D.M.D.
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



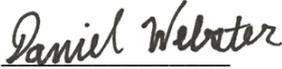
Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



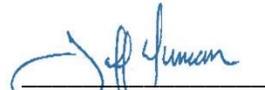
Brian Mast
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