

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We are concerned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has canceled a 2019 plan put in place to responsibly phase out wasteful and unnecessary chemical testing on rabbits and other mammals by 2035, with a 30 percent reduction by 2025.

For years, EPA has acknowledged that chemical tests on animals do not translate to humans, that they are “expensive, time-consuming, and can cause stress to laboratory animals,” and that modern testing alternatives have “inherent advantages.”<sup>1</sup> For public health, animal welfare and government waste reasons, reducing animal testing was previously a major EPA priority with broad bipartisan support in Congress.<sup>2</sup> A 2018 national poll found that 68 percent of Democrats and 79 percent of Republicans supported cutting federal spending for the EPA’s animal testing.<sup>3</sup>

However, according to media reports and documents obtained by the government watchdog White Coat Waste Project, soon after you were confirmed in 2021, the EPA eliminated the 2025 and 2035 phase-out dates in the agency’s Work Plan for reducing animal tests.<sup>4</sup> The EPA has also declined so far to follow through on a January 2021 directive to relocate rabbits no longer needed in research. During your Senate confirmation hearing you did say you would “remain strongly committed” to reducing and replacing animal testing.<sup>5</sup>

## **We request that you provide the following information:**

1. On what date did the EPA conclude that achieving the phase-out by the 2025 and 2035 benchmarks was not feasible? Can you detail the evidence that was used to arrive at this conclusion?
2. Who made the decision for the 2025 and 2035 deadlines to be “stripped out” of the Work Plan? Additionally, when was this decision made? Was Congress consulted or notified of this change?
3. Why has EPA not relocated rabbits no longer needed in research as directed in January 2021?
4. Please provide a comprehensive list of all currently sanctioned intramural animal testing protocols, including their project numbers, titles, abstracts, and the financial burden borne by taxpayers.
5. How much taxpayer money did EPA spend on intramural animal testing in fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-08-08/pdf/2018-16990.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2018/07/19/bipartisan-congressional-coalition-probes-epa-on-horrific-and-inhumane-animal-tests/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2018/04/28/poll-supermajority-of-taxpayers-want-to-stop-epa-animal-tests/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/dec/13/trump-put-epa-on-course-to-end-animal-testing-bide/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-117shrg43814/html/CHRG-117shrg43814.htm>

6. In the same fiscal years, how many animals were utilized in intramural testing by the EPA? Please provide a detailed report categorizing the data by year and species.

The commitment to reducing animal testing not only reflects a scientific and ethical stance but also aligns with the expectations of the American people for more humane and cost-effective research methods. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



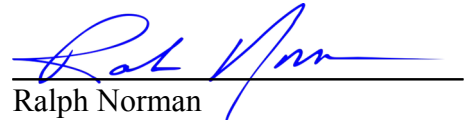
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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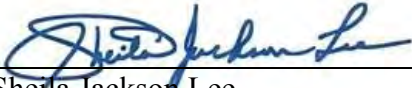
Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



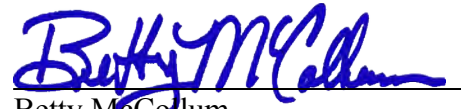
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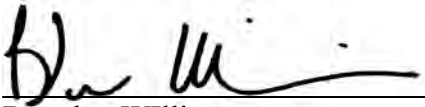


Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress




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Brian Fitzpatrick  
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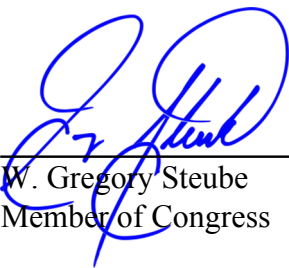
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Kay Granger  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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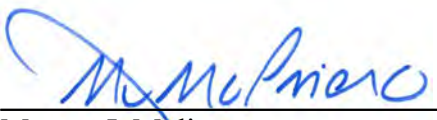
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W. Gregory Steube  
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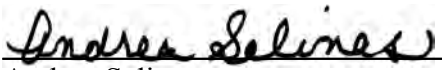
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Michael V. Lawler  
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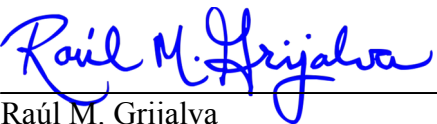
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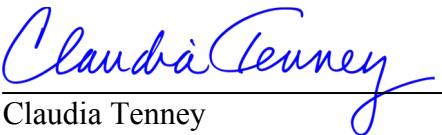
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Andrea Salinas  
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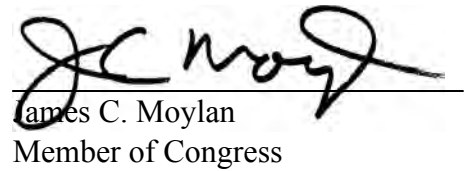
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Claudia Tenney  
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John James  
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James C. Moylan  
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Jill Tokuda  
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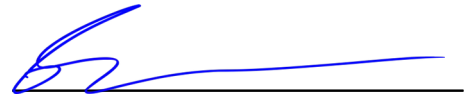
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Joaquin Castro  
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Sydney Kamlager-  
Dove  
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Scott Perry  
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