

June 15, 2021

Dr. Francis Collins  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Director Collins:

Recent revelations have brought the question of where SARS-CoV-2 originated back to the forefront of national discussions after a previously undisclosed intelligence report revealed new information regarding researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) who displayed COVID-19 symptoms in November 2019. Many quickly dismissed the idea that this virus could have been related to a leak at the WIV as merely a conspiracy theory that reflected anti-China rhetoric. A World Health Organization (WHO) “investigation” then vehemently emphasized the unlikelihood of an accidental lab leak. In recent weeks, however, Dr. Fauci himself has admitted the possibility of a lab leak, and the White House has directed U.S. intelligence to further investigate the matter.

Dr. Peter Daszak was the only American citizen involved in the WHO investigation. Reports show that, at the instruction of Dr. Daszak himself, the WHO investigation did not look into information about at least 16,000 previously studied virus samples from a deleted WIV database. Additionally, EcoHealth Alliance, under Dr. Peter Daszak’s leadership, funneled \$600,000 in U.S. taxpayer dollars to the WIV. That money came from a five-year, \$3.4 million grant that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) awarded to EcoHealth. As you know, Dr. Anthony Fauci heads the NIAID. Dr. Daszak has been one of the loudest opponents of any connection between the origin of SARS-CoV-2 and the Wuhan lab. In fact, his letter in *The Lancet* condemns “conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin.”

In light of this troubling constellation of facts, I am requesting the NIH issue a report to Congress with a detailed listing of all of the grants that the NIH or any subsidiary agency, including the NIAID, has given to Dr. Daszak at any point, including details regarding how each grant intended to use that funding. COVID-19 ravaged the globe and has caused severe ongoing damage to our nation’s economy. Americans deserve substantive, transparent answers to where the virus originated, what sparked the pandemic, and who may be responsible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

John Kennedy  
United States Senator