

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

We were pleased by former Administrator Pruitt's recent announcements about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ongoing work to reduce unnecessary animal testing requirements for regulated industries in favor of more cost-efficient and accurate research technologies and we are hopeful that the agency will continue on that path under your leadership. Today, however, we are writing about animal testing being conducted in-house at EPA with taxpayers' dollars.

We are concerned about reports that the EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) is using an estimated 20,000 animals each year for questionable testing. Recently-published experiments by EPA's NHEERL show that lab animals were fed lard and coconut oil, then forced to breathe diesel exhaust, ozone, and smog, electrocuted, and ultimately killed. These tests likely cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year, and their relevance to humans, as EPA has often acknowledged, is dubious at best.

Details about many of these projects are scarce, thus we are very interested in learning more about the EPA's current in-house animal testing. Please provide our offices with the following information:

1. **Animal use:** How many animals, by species, were used in NHEERL testing each year since FY2015?
2. **Cost to taxpayers:** How much taxpayer money was spent on NHEERL animal testing each year since FY2015?
3. **Current projects:** How many current projects at NHEERL involve animal testing? Please provide a list of the projects, including project titles, start and end dates, budgets, and objectives.
4. **Alternatives to animal tests:** What efforts has NHEERL engaged in to develop and implement alternatives to animal testing?
5. **Transparency:** Is there a searchable database where can Congress and taxpayers can find information about all current and past EPA animal testing projects, their cost, methods and results?

We appreciate former Administrator Pruitt's recent reiteration of "EPA's goal of reducing the use of animals and increasing the use of cutting-edge science in chemical testing." We support this effort and look forward to receiving the information requested above.

Thank you for your cooperation.

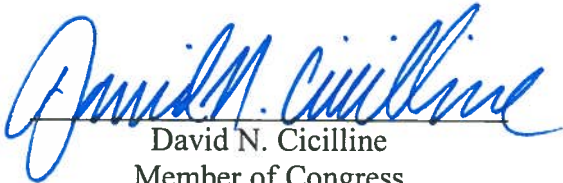
Sincerely,




Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Brendan Boyle
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress