ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641 Minority (202) 225-2927

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Gina Raimondo Secretary U.S. Department of Commerce 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

As the Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and as Chairs of our respective subcommittees for the 118th Congress, we look forward to working with you on issues of great public interest and concern. As part of this work, the Committee will be conducting oversight and investigations of programs in your department or departmental agencies. Oversight is part of our constitutional responsibilities, and we anticipate you and your staff will work constructively with us.

To help improve our working relationship going forward, we are outlining expectations for how your department should respond to Committee oversight requests:

- 1. For all requests or questions, please reproduce the requests or questions presented in a written letter with the department or agency response.
- 2. In the spirit of comity and inter-branch accommodation, your department or agency should endeavor to cooperate as much as possible with committee oversight requests. If your department or agency has determined it will not voluntarily cooperate with the requests, please provide electronic written notice within two business days specifying which requests you are declining to cooperate with and the stated reasons for voluntary noncooperation.
- 3. Your department or agency should make a determination on whether certain requests cannot be fulfilled as presented. Provide electronic written notice within one business week of receipt of the request about such determinations, stating the reasons why. If there is an alternative approach that could address the Committee's request, then such an alternative approach should be suggested in the interests of comity and inter-branch accommodation.

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- 4. If the department or agency needs clarification about a Committee request, your staff should make good faith efforts to contact Committee staff for assistance as soon as possible.
- 5. We expect your department or agency to provide a written response to our oversight requests within two weeks of receipt of the letter. If the department or agency needs additional time to respond to Committee requests, your staff should make good faith efforts to contact Committee staff for assistance as soon as possible.
- 6. If your department or agency has determined that certain requested documents cannot be produced pursuant to a privilege or other legal basis, your department or agency should submit an index of the withheld documents and the privilege asserted within two business weeks of receipt of the request letter.
- 7. If your department has determined that a requested witness cannot be made available pursuant to a privilege or other legal basis, your department or agency should submit in writing an explanation of the privilege or other legal basis asserted within two business weeks of receipt of the request letter.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Chair

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Robert E. Latta

Chairman

Subcommittee on Communications and

Technology

Brett Guthrie

Chairman

Subcommittee on Health

H. Morgan Griffith

Chairman/

Subcommittee on Oversight and

Investigations

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Gus M. Bilirakis

Chairman

Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and

Commerce

Bill Johnson

Chairman

Subcommittee on Environment,

Manufacturing, and Critical Materials

Johnson

Jeff Dunca

Chairman

Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid

Security

CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Doris Matsui, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security