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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
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Washington, DC 20515-6115

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February 25, 2008

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The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General
U.S. General Accounting Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Comptroller General Walker:

On October 4, 2007, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing entitled, "Germs, Viruses, and Secrets: The Silent Proliferation of Bio-Laboratories in the United States." At this hearing, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) presented its findings, including information that no single agency has the mission to identify and regulate bio-laboratories and that no one knows how many of these labs exist. (See GAO-08-108T, October 4, 2007).

Partly as a consequence of GAO's findings, the Subcommittee has expanded the scope of its investigation to include examination of the international proliferation of high-containment bioresearch laboratories. The Parliament of the United Kingdom has initiated a similar investigation and is interested in collaborating with us on this matter. Dr. Sushil Sharma of your staff has followed this issue most closely from the beginning and has assisted the Committee in the past. We, therefore, request his services on this matter.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact John G. Arlington with the Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable David M. Walker
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cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable John Shimkus, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations