

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH 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) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

December 9, 2014

Dr. Nicole Lurie  
Assistant Secretary  
Preparedness and Response  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Lurie:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, to testify at the hearing entitled "Update on the U.S. Public Health Response to the Ebola Outbreak."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

Also attached are Member requests made during the hearing. The format of your responses to these requests should follow the same format as your responses to the additional questions for the record.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions and requests with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, December 23, 2014. Your responses should be mailed to Brittany Havens, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to [brittany.havens@mail.house.gov](mailto:brittany.havens@mail.house.gov).

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachments

## Attachment 1—Additional Questions for the Record

### The Honorable Ben Ray Luján

1. What's happening in West Africa is a tragedy. Recently, the World Health Organization announced that this unprecedented Ebola outbreak had claimed the lives of over 5,000 people and that more than 14,000 have been infected. Meanwhile, the public health infrastructure in these countries, which was already poor, is increasingly strained. The World Bank reports this outbreak could cost West Africa \$33 billion over the next two years.

Clearly, we have a moral responsibility to address this crisis. But defeating Ebola at its source is also vital to ensuring the safety of the American people. The Administration has correctly asked for a robust funding package to address this crisis. It is my hope and expectation that Congress will act on this request quickly.

However, the current Ebola crisis also demonstrates the importance of robust investments in our nation's public health infrastructure and in our research and development institutions. In my home state of New Mexico, our National Laboratories have developed genetic sequencing, low cost rapid pathogen assays, and computer models for how diseases spread.

Can you speak to the present and future role the National Labs play in our response to the Ebola crisis and similar outbreaks? Do you expect any of the funding in this request to go to National Laboratories – either directly or through partnerships?

## **Attachment 2—Member Requests for the Record**

*During the hearing, Members asked you to provide additional information for the record, and you indicated that you would provide that information. For your convenience, descriptions of the requested information are provided below.*

### **The Honorable Michael C. Burgess**

1. During the hearing, you mentioned that we have not declared a national emergency; therefore FEMA has not been activated. Alternatively, in coordination with partners across the Federal Government you have been doing “aggressive planning” for the what-ifs. Please provide the committee with the details of that planning.