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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

As Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I write to formally request that your office open an inquiry into the use of Confidential Human Sources (CHS) by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and to Confidential Informants (CI) by other Department of Justice (DOJ) components under your jurisdiction. Recent questions have arisen concerning the potential roles of Peter Daszak, Ph.D., and Ralph S. Baric, Ph.D., in matters related to public health, given their involvement in virology and emerging infectious disease research, as well as their affiliations with federally funded research institutions.

In the interest of transparency, I request that your office determine whether Dr. Daszak or Dr. Baric have ever been designated, utilized, or compensated as a CHS or CI for the FBI or any other DOJ component. If so, please assess the circumstances of that designation, including the nature of their role, the timeframe of any such relationship, and any intersection with federally funded research or programs implicating national security or public health. Please also identify any applicable oversight mechanisms or approval processes and summarize, as appropriate, any payments or compensation received in connection with their service as a CHS or CI. Additionally, please examine whether the FBI or relevant DOJ component is aware of either individual having a relationship with any other U.S. government entity in a source, informant, or analogous capacity. If DOJ components are not aware of any such external affiliation, please describe any existing policies or procedures that guide how such affiliations might be identified or addressed.

Please provide a written response no later than 5:00PM on July 14, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Rand Paul, M.D.
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs