

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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July 27, 2022

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney,

Throughout the 117th Congress, Committee Republicans have tried to hold the Biden Administration accountable by conducting meaningful oversight of the federal government.¹ Yet, for the past year and a half, no cabinet-level official has appeared before the Committee, preventing the American people from hearing first-hand testimony from those making policy decisions impacting the country. Because of your unwillingness to hold the Administration accountable, Committee Republicans invited senior officials to testify, including Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, whose staff stated that the Secretary would only accept a hearing invitation from the Chairwoman and not the Ranking Member.² Last week, Committee Republicans invited Attorney General Merrick Garland to attend a hearing about gun manufacturers on July 27, 2022, but he also declined.³ Even more troubling, we recently learned that the Administration also refuses Committee Democrats' requests for hearing appearances.

On July 25, 2022, Subcommittee Chairman Ro Khanna wrote the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reiterating a request for participation by top agency officials at a hearing on July 28, 2022, regarding leaded aviation fuel.⁴ Committee Democrats were so desperate to secure the participation of the Administration that they "offered to change the scope of the hearing so that both agencies would be comfortable

¹ See e.g., Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, Comm. on Oversight and Reform, et al., to Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, Comm. on Oversight and Reform (July 18, 2022); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Janet Yellen, Sec'y, Dep't of the Treasury (July 6, 2022); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, Comm. on Oversight and Reform, et al., to Hon. Michael Regan, Administrator, EPA (Dec. 23, 2021); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, Comm. on Oversight and Reform, et al., to Hon. Steve Dickson, Administrator, Fed. Aviation Admin. (Sept. 21, 2021).

² Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Jennifer Granholm, Sec'y, Dep't of Energy (Feb. 8, 2022).

³ Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, Comm. on Oversight and Reform (July 20, 2022).

⁴ Letter from Hon. Ro Khanna, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Environment, to Hon. Michael Regan, Admin., EPA, and Billy Nolen, Interim Administrator, Fed. Aviation Admin. (July 25, 2022).

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney

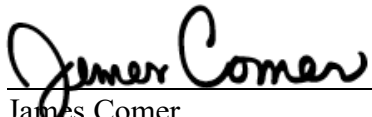
July 27, 2022

Page 2


testifying.”⁵ Subcommittee Chairman Khanna concluded that the failure to provide witnesses was “unconscionable” and raises questions about a “commitment to transparency.”⁶ We agree with Subcommittee Chairman Khanna. It is unacceptable for the Administration to refuse to testify at congressional hearings. The American people deserve transparency from President Biden’s political appointees.

In order to ensure that Administration officials fulfill their obligation to testify before the Committee, we fully support the authorization of subpoenas to compel testimony of EPA and FAA officials. We also support the authorization of a subpoena for Attorney General Garland’s testimony at a full Committee hearing. It is critical that we fulfill the important oversight mission of this Committee and hold the federal government accountable to the American people.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Environment

cc: The Honorable Ro Khanna, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*