

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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February 7, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Allegations published in Politico today regarding the conduct of Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director Eric Lander are extremely troubling.¹ As the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, it is our top priority to ensure that federal science agencies are equipped to meet the challenges facing our nation. A fully functioning OSTP is vital to the success of that effort. The behavior described in the Politico article and acknowledged by OSTP Director Lander is harmful to the workforce of OSTP as they attempt to carry out their responsibilities.

According to the Politico article, an internal White House investigation found “credible evidence of disrespectful interactions with staff by Dr. Lander and OSTP leadership,” and that this behavior violated the White House’s workplace policy. Such violations should be taken seriously at all levels of the Administration.

In order to ensure the investigation was proper and comprehensive, we request a copy of the White House’s report. We also request that White House staff brief our respective staff on the report’s findings and planned next steps to ensure OSTP is taking action to improve the workplace environment.

¹ <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/02/07/eric-lander-white-house-investigation-00006077>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eddie Bernice Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank D. Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F".

Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology