



June 14, 2024

Response to Charity Navigator Alert

EcoHealth Alliance is disappointed that Charity Navigator has added a Review Before Proceeding alert to our profile. We have maintained a four-star rating for over a decade, and we are proud of this status, as well as the hard work it took to achieve this level of financial transparency.

This alert is being issued on the basis of unproven allegations against EcoHealth Alliance, which are nothing but political theatre, without credible evidence. This is even stated in the article cited as the reason for the alert:

“But for all the scrutiny of EcoHealth, there remains no evidence linking it directly with the beginning of the pandemic.”

Federal health officials have said repeatedly that the viruses being studied with taxpayer funding at the Wuhan lab bore no resemblance to the one that set off the coronavirus outbreak, making it impossible that they had been responsible for the public health crisis.”

--U.S. Suspends Funding for Group at the Center of Covid Origins Fight, Benjamin Mueller at *New York Times* (italics added)

There are also allegations that EcoHealth Alliance is not capable of managing federal funds, or tried to mislead grant managers by not submitting a progress report on time. EHA maintains that it has cooperated extensively with federal oversight bodies such as the Government Accountability Office, which conducted an 18-month audit of EHA compliance with NIH grants, **and found that we had the appropriate systems in place to provide grant oversight in January 2023.**

The issue of the late progress report is something that *LA Times* writer Michael Hiltzik compares to [“a traffic violation.”](#) And like traffic violations, it is an insignificant charge trotted out in the absence of any serious wrongdoing. Furthermore, it is not even accurate: EHA has a substantial paper trail showing repeated attempts to submit the report on time, which will be disclosed in our rebuttal to HHS.

EHA has been suspended from federal funding and awaits a formal investigation into whether it should be debarred. We plan to vigorously contest it, and welcome the chance to submit our case and the strong evidence in our favor. In the meantime, we invite you to review the following articles that provide a wider context on the politicized nature of these allegations:



EcoHealth Alliance

“Democrats show that they’re no better than Trump in allowing politics to interfere with science” (<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-05-17/column-democrats-prove-that-theyre-no-better-than-trump-in-allowing-politics-to-interfere-with-science>)

“How the GOP — with Democratic Party connivance — has undermined a crucial effort to avert the next pandemic” (<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-05-02/how-the-gop-with-democratic-connivance-has-undermined-a-crucial-effort-to-avert-the-next-pandemic>)

Throughout this onslaught of media and congressional attention, EcoHealth Alliance continues to conduct the same research on the connections between public health and conservation that has earned it such high ratings at Charity Navigator over the years. Only now we do so with the additional burden of suspended federal funding. **We hope that you will take the time to consider the facts objectively when making your charitable giving decisions, as private donations are now more important than ever.**

And, if you have any remaining concerns about these allegations, please scan the QR code below to review our official statement, or email us at development@ecohealthalliance.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Daszak, PhD
President, EcoHealth Alliance

