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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0926

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Jane Nashida
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Nishida:

I am writing you today to inquire on an issue that has been raised to me by the Florida Key's Environmental Coalition (FKEC) in Florida's 26th Congressional District. FKEC is a constituent coalition aimed at protecting the health and safety of citizens along with the ecosystem of the Florida Keys. They have recently brought to my attention their concerns relating to the process by which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the Experimental Use Permit (EUP) granted to Oxitec as it relates to Genetically Modified Mosquitos (GMM) in Monroe County, Florida.

Previously, as mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida I was responsible for trying to mitigate the spread of the Zika virus by mosquitos, so I understand the importance of these efforts. With that being said, I believe the concerns of my constituents living in the community where this EUP will be used deserve mine, and the EPA's consideration. I am requesting that you provide my office with any available independent corroboration:

1) Showing that no genetically modified female mosquitos will be released under this EUP.
2) What, if any, adverse impact these mosquitos might have on the ecosystem throughout the Florida Keys, and specifically threatened or endangered species.
3) What adverse impact this might have on the food chain through ingestion by local popular consumable marine life.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I ask that you give this request your full and fair consideration consistent with applicable statues and regulations. If you have any questions please contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Nicole Rapanos (nicole.rapanos@mail.house.gov) or my Legislative Director, Chase Clanahan (chase.clanahan@mail.house.gov).

Carlos A. Gimenez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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