

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2021

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC. 20004

Dear Administrator Regan,

Under your leadership and sincere commitment to restoring the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") vital mission to protect human health and the environment, the agency is once again operating in ways that truly benefit all Americans. I believe the renewed sense of purpose and inclusion, especially among the agency's career experts, will produce significant environmental progress all across the country and prove incredibly vital in our ongoing fight against the climate crisis. I write today to bring your attention to what I understand as a life-saving technology called SurfaceWise2, which Allied BioScience owns, and I request your assistance in getting it across the regulatory finish line.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPA emerged as a vital part of approving disinfectants that were effective against fighting the virus. In particular, your team of experts in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention proved essential in helping families and businesses safely navigate through the pandemic. While the agency acted with unprecedented expediency in approving traditional disinfectants, they have yet to expand its approval for SurfaceWise2 that would be beneficial to the American public.

SurfaceWise2 would be an essential agent in protecting against COVID-19 at the southwest border. As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, a priority of mine is ensuring we provide safe and humane shelters for migrants that journey to America. As part of this commitment, we must do all we can to protect these individuals from exposure to bacteria and viruses. SurfaceWise2 has what I understand to be a critical tool in achieving this outcome. Unlike traditional cleaning products that only kill the present germs on surfaces, SurfaceWise2 is a functional coating, killing both what is currently present on surfaces and everything that comes into contact with it in the future – for up to 90-days.

While I recognize and appreciate that EPA has been working diligently to approve many products within their oversight, I request you prioritize the ongoing review that would grant unencumbered national access. I certainly respect the layers of analysis and assessment that are an essential part of this type of approval; however, I respectfully suggest that we cannot let a process get in the way of progressing access to a life-saving technology – and in particular – one that has been before the agency for over a year, during a pandemic.

The innovation offered by this residual disinfectant technology is not only incredibly impactful now but also for generations to come: the next time influenza or another major virus breaks out, the spread could be stopped upon contact with a SurfaceWise2 treated surface. This is especially true for high traffic, contamination-rich environments like mass transit, schools, nursing homes, our border facilities, and many more.

I thank you for your leadership at the agency and for your time in looking into this important matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Hope Goins at hope.goins@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to its right.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security