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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3104

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
JOINT ECONOMIC

Dear Chairman Lee:

You have indicated that you plan to hold a hearing to consider the nomination of Mr. Chris Wright to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy on January 15, 2025, in the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (“the Committee”). Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Committee rules, “every nominee shall submit the financial disclosure report filed pursuant to Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. Such report is made available to the public.” As of January 8, 2025, the Minority has not received Mr. Wright’s financial disclosure. Due to this, I will not consent to holding this hearing until the Committee receives the required nomination paperwork, which is as follows:

1. The Committee’s questionnaire;
2. The standard Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Form 278e financial disclosure report;
3. An “ethics agreement” between the nominee and the Designated Agency Ethics Officer that identifies the “steps” (e.g. divestiture, recusal, resignation of outside positions, etc.) that the nominee must take to resolve any potential conflicts of interest, which is required by the Ethics in Government Act;
4. A letter from the Designated Agency Ethics Officer stating that, in his or her opinion, the nominee will be in compliance with the ethics laws and rules, which is required by the Ethics in Government Act; and,
5. A letter from the OGE that also states that the Office of Government Ethics has reviewed the financial disclosure report and ethics agreement and is also of the opinion that the nominee is in compliance with ethics laws and rules, which is required by the Ethics in Government Act.

The American people deserve transparency on the individuals nominated to serve them in the incoming administration. As members of the U.S. Senate, you and I have a solemn obligation to fulfill our constitutional duties to advise and consent to these nominees. That cannot happen without the information necessary to properly consider these nominees. I urge you to adhere to this Committee’s longstanding precedence and take seriously your constitutional responsibilities by waiting to notice this hearing until we receive the information needed to ensure this process is thorough and complete.

I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH

Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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