

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Christopher Wright
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are deeply troubled by recent news reports that the Department of Energy (Department) is creating a “hit list of clean energy projects” to “wipe out” for being inconsistent with the President’s priorities. This list reportedly includes hydrogen hubs and carbon capture, critical mineral, and battery storage projects that have already received grant and loan funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and annual appropriations bills.

You assured us during your confirmation hearing that you believe that legal agreements should be honored (including managing the financial commitments you have inherited) and that you will follow the law. Indiscriminately canceling program funding and executed contracts, and refusing to execute on the funding directives Congress enacted, neither honors existing agreements nor is consistent with the spending laws that have appropriated funding for specific purposes.

Our Constitution gives Congress the power of the purse and exclusive power to appropriate funds. Once a law is properly enacted, the Constitution requires the President to “take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.” The President cannot substitute his policy preferences for requirements in law, and that includes refusing to spend funds Congress requires the President to spend.

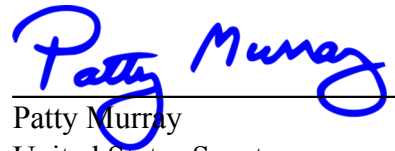
In this instance, where Congress has authorized and appropriated funds for programs that support clean energy projects, the Department must faithfully execute the law and expend the funds for the purposes provided. For example, programs authorized that have received federal appropriations under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law have requirements on timing of expended funds, purposes, and contractual expectations. An internal Office of Management and Budget guidance document cannot hide the Department’s obligation to follow the enacted law.

Dissolving contracts, cancelling grants and loans, and reneging on loan guarantees without any intention to execute the laws is not only illegal, but is harmful to the public and energy consumers. Your indiscriminate cancellations of spending will increase energy prices, make our grid less secure, and stop energy innovation. If the Department has a policy disagreement and does not want to spend money on programs Congress has funded, the lawful response is to ask Congress to rescind that funding. The decision ultimately rests with Congress, not with the President, the Department of Energy, or the Department of Government Efficiency. Please provide us a detailed list and briefing that identifies which grants, loans, or loan guarantees you believe should be rescinded and why you think they should be rescinded.

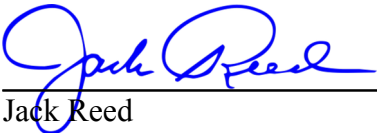
Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Energy and Natural
Resources



Patty Murray
United States Senator
Vice Chair, Committee on
Appropriations



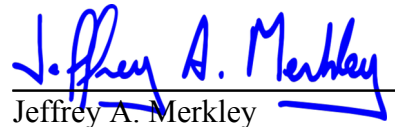
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



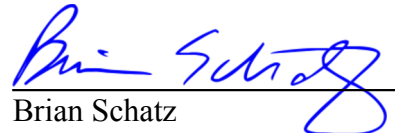
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



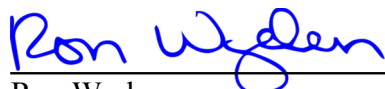
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



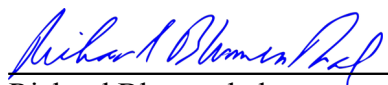
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



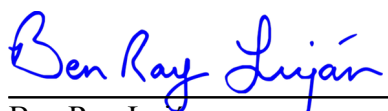
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



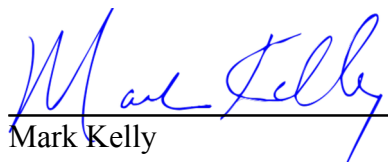
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator