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6 OVERSIGHT OF DOE DURING THE

7 COVID-19 PANDEMIC

8 TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

9 House of Representatives

10 Subcommittee on Energy

11 Committee on Energy and Commerce

12 Washington, D.C.

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16 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 12:00 p.m., in Room  
17 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Bobby L. Rush [chairman  
18 of the subcommittee] presiding.

19 Members present: Representatives Rush, Peters, Doyle, Sarbanes,  
20 McNerney, Tonko, Loeb sack, Welch, Schrader, Kennedy, Veasey,  
21 Kuster, Kelly, Barragan, McEachin, O'Halleran, Blunt Rochester,  
22 Pallone (ex officio), Upton, Latta, Rodgers, Olson, McKinley,  
23 Griffith, Johnson, Bucshon, Flores, Hudson, Walberg, and Walden  
24 (ex officio).

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25       Also present: Representatives Shimkus and Burgess.  
26       Staff present: Billy Benjamin, Systems Administrator; Jeff  
27       Carroll, Staff Director; Adam Fischer, Policy Analyst; Catherine  
28       Giljohann, FERC Detailee; Waverly Gordon, Deputy Chief Counsel;  
29       Tiffany Guarascio, Deputy Staff Director; Rick Kessler, Senior  
30       Advisor and Staff Directory, Energy and Environment; Brendan  
31       Larkin, Policy Coordinator; Jourdan Lewis, Policy Analyst; Elysa  
32       Montfort, Press Secretary; Joe Orlando, Staff Assistant; Kaitlyn  
33       Peel, Digital Director; Mike Bloomquist, Minority Staff Director;  
34       Theresa Gambo, Minority Human Resources/Office Administrator;  
35       Peter Kielty, Minority General Counsel; Ryan Long, Minority  
36       Deputy Staff Director; Mary Martin, Minority Chief Counsel,  
37       Energy & Environment & Climate Change; Brandon Mooney, Minority  
38       Deputy Chief Counsel, Energy; Brannon Rains, Minority Policy  
39       Analyst; and Peter Spencer, Minority Senior Professional Staff  
40       Member, Environment & Climate Change.

41 Mr. Rush. The subcommittee will now come to order. Today the  
42 subcommittee is holding a hearing entitled, "Oversight of DOE  
43 During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Due to the COVID-19 public health  
44 emergency, members will be participating in today's hearing,  
45 finally, either in person or remotely via videoconferencing.  
46 And just as a reminder, we have had some technical difficulties  
47 in making sure that our remote video was operating up to standard.  
48 As part of this hearing, the microphones of members participating  
49 remotely will be set on mute for the purpose of eliminating  
50 inadvertent background noise. Members participating remotely  
51 will need to unmute their microphones each time you wish to speak.

52 For members and witnesses participating in person, I encourage  
53 you to wear your masks whenever you are not speaking.

54 Dr. Monahan, the House physician, stressed in the updated  
55 attending physician COVID-19 guidelines that the use of face  
56 coverings is meant to protect other people in case the wearer  
57 is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. By wearing  
58 our masks when we are not speaking, each of us is playing a vital  
59 role in protecting all members and all staff who are in attendance,  
60 as well as the leaders of the Administration's COVID-19 response  
61 of who will be testifying before the committee today, the  
62 Secretary of Energy, Secretary Brouillette.

63 Finally, documents for the record can be sent to Adam Fischer  
64 at the email address that we provided to staff. All documents

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65 will be entered into the record at the conclusion of the hearing.

66 The Chair now recognizes himself for five minutes for the  
67 purposes of an opening statement.

68 Good afternoon. The recent decline in our nation's economic  
69 activity has resulted in a multitude of hardships within our  
70 communities and economic sectors. Today the Subcommittee on  
71 Energy convenes for a hearing to further examine the impacts of  
72 novel coronavirus on a vital segment of our economy.

73 From the outset, the pandemic has presented the energy sector  
74 with numerous challenges, ranging from staggering unemployment  
75 rates, supply chain disruptions, declining demand, and depleted  
76 investment. At present, 1.3 million members of the energy sector  
77 workforce remain unemployed. A significant percentage of these  
78 jobs were once occupied by people of color and hardworking members  
79 of the clean energy industry which previously enjoyed steady  
80 growth.

81 Taking this into account, the subcommittee held a remote hearing  
82 in June to discuss the sector's recent setbacks. Throughout this  
83 hearing, we received expert testimony from witnesses who spoke  
84 to the pandemic's effect on clean energy jobs as well as the  
85 industry's function as an economic recovery engine.

86 In response to this hearing, I was proud to join my colleagues  
87 in including provisions to support workforce development,  
88 diversity, and clean energy infrastructure investment within the

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89 recent infrastructure bill. This committee, through its broad  
90 and envious jurisdiction, has oversight of federal agency  
91 resources that are key to the confrontation of the public health  
92 crisis and the economic challenges that are linked to the  
93 coronavirus. The Department of Energy and its vast enterprise  
94 is chief among these resources. That is why I am so pleased to  
95 welcome the Secretary of Energy, Mr. Dan -- Secretary Dan  
96 Brouillette, who will testify before the subcommittee today.  
97 Secretary Brouillette is not a stranger to this subcommittee in  
98 that he served previously as a staff director to Chairman Tauzin  
99 a few years back.

100 To date, the Department of Energy has leveraged its national  
101 laboratory system, which includes Chicago's own Argonne National  
102 Lab, to harness its supercomputing capabilities to fight  
103 COVID-19. Additionally, it has worked to support the public and  
104 private sectors in keeping our very own lights on. However, the  
105 full deployment of DOE's resources is of great and vital  
106 importance to our nation's economic recovery.

107 Existing program offices like the Office of Economic Impact and  
108 Diversity and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
109 have the ability to drive employment opportunities, enhance  
110 sector diversity and secure energy savings, especially at a time  
111 when they are so critically needed most. Therefore, I look  
112 forward to today's hearing as a first step in ensuring a productive

113 partnership to preserve reliability and opportunity within the  
114 energy sector.

115 With that, I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman  
116 from Michigan, the ranking member Fred Upton, for five minutes  
117 for an opening statement.

118 Mr. Upton. Well thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome back to  
119 you. And welcome back, Mr. Secretary. You know it is good to  
120 have you before the committee today, and certainly good to see  
121 you are thriving after your promotion to Cabinet Secretary. We  
122 have all said from the beginning we are fortunate to have somebody  
123 like you at the helm at the Department of Energy. And when you  
124 testified before us as the Deputy Secretary that was 2-1/2 years  
125 ago back in 2018.

126 At that hearing, which I chaired, the committee was looking at  
127 DOE modernization, what steps Congress should take to ensure that  
128 the Department could address the national, the economic, and  
129 energy security challenges that are going to be confronting the  
130 nation over the coming decades. Given the committee's  
131 jurisdiction, we heard from the three main mission components  
132 of the Department -- the under secretaries of Energy, of Nuclear  
133 Security, and of Science. And you led off the panel in your role  
134 as DOE's number two and the COO of the Department.

135 So that hearing informed several ongoing legislative  
136 initiatives. For example, we have worked to strengthen the

137 Department's ability to address emerging hazards and cyber  
138 threats to critical infrastructure, to modernize the Strategic  
139 Petroleum Reserve, to improve energy diplomacy, to improve and  
140 advance nuclear and other energy policy, and to improve programs  
141 like minority workforce development important to all of us.

142 So fast forward to today, and many of these policy issues remain  
143 critical. The COVID-19 pandemic and the severe economic and  
144 energy sector impacts have highlighted why a well-functioning  
145 DOE is so important.

146 Mr. Rush. Mr. Upton. Mr. Upton, will you please suspend? You  
147 are breaking up and we want to try to correct that problem. We  
148 are sitting on the edge of our seats trying to hear what you have  
149 to say.

150 Mr. Upton. I will wait for the green light.

151 [Audio malfunction in the hearing room.]

152 Mr. Rush. The gentleman will proceed.

153 Mr. Upton. Okay. In your own testimony, Mr. Secretary, you  
154 highlighted how DOE brought the capabilities of its scientific  
155 and technological advances resources to the COVID fight. And  
156 data on compound screening with the super computer at Oak Ridge,  
157 the use of the Argonne Lab's Advanced Photon Source user facility  
158 to characterize the virus, and the work of leading tech companies  
159 illustrate the benefits of collaboration across the DOE complex  
160 with the private sector. And we heard testimony just to

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161 this point two years ago, and now we see how it can work in a  
162 crisis. Other missions of the Department have been put to the  
163 test. The crisis in the energy sector, with economic shutdown  
164 and the Russia-Saudi price war, challenged your ability and our  
165 strategic energy responsibilities in American energy leaderships  
166 in new ways. I doubt anyone imagined some 40 years ago that our  
167 Strategic Petroleum Reserve might be useful to just take on supply  
168 rather than disperse it in a crisis.

169 You know, we might have to consider new strategic approaches  
170 to protect our energy security. Clearly, the pandemic exposed  
171 the security and strategic risks from ceding leadership on oil  
172 and gas and reminded us of the important role American energy  
173 resources and technology serves our national and strategic  
174 interests.

175 Several Republican members on this panel are working on  
176 legislative reforms to help modernize energy infrastructure and  
177 increase American energy leadership and that involves policies  
178 to strengthen our energy security, to promote and deploy cleaner  
179 energy, and modernizing regulatory requirements to ensure that  
180 DOE and the private sector innovation advances can be put into  
181 action.

182 The recent crisis revealed to more Americans the strategic  
183 threats of China, Russia, and other adversaries to our long-term  
184 economic and energy security. And this underscores the work that

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185 we must do to make sure that DOE has all the tools and the  
186 authorities necessary to safeguard and respond to threats to our  
187 critical electric infrastructure, and the delivery and supply  
188 of energy. The President's recent bulk power system executive  
189 order underscores those risks, and DOE, I know, is at the center  
190 of responding to them.

191 The increasingly complex interconnections of our modern energy  
192 systems, from pipelines to power plants, present growing risks  
193 to that grid. Getting ahead of this requires secretarial  
194 leadership and a coordinated attention across the Energy  
195 Department's programs, and operations and we ought to discuss  
196 what more is needed to advance your mission on that front today.  
197 Finally, growing nuclear weapons threats and the tens of billions  
198 of dollars needed to maintain the nuclear deterrent underscore  
199 the urgency for creating efficient, effective, and durable  
200 governance and management of DOE's nuclear security missions.

201 So there are many topics here, Mr. Secretary. Your experience  
202 from the past, your experience now will help to identify, to  
203 address the challenges in how we all can work together on behalf  
204 of the country. Thank you and I yield back. Mr. Rush. The  
205 gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Pallone,  
206 the Chairman of the full committee, for five minutes for the  
207 purposes of an opening statement.

208 The Chairman. Thank you, Chairman Rush. Secretary

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209 Brouillette, welcome back to the committee. We are obviously  
210 glad that we have you before the committee in your role as  
211 Secretary. I just want to begin by thanking the Department of  
212 Energy, particularly its national laboratories, for the research  
213 they are conducting on COVID-19. Our committee has held numerous  
214 hearings and conducted a lot of oversight over the federal  
215 government's woefully inadequate response to the pandemic, and  
216 a response that has done very little to help alleviate the  
217 skyrocketing cases we are now seeing all around the nation.  
218 And while I continue to be critical of the Administration's  
219 response, the research being conducted at the national labs is  
220 important to analyze the structure of the virus and the model  
221 as it is spread, and I look forward to hearing more specifics  
222 on that effort, Mr. Secretary.

223 The pandemic has also seriously damaged our economy, leaving  
224 millions of Americans unemployed. The severe economic downturn  
225 is impacting the energy sector, with the energy efficiency and  
226 renewable energy industries particularly hard hit. The  
227 subcommittee held a hearing last month with former Energy  
228 Secretary Moniz who briefed us on the impact the pandemic has  
229 had on the energy sector, and we have to do more to aid the  
230 struggling renewable industry.

231 Now earlier this month, the House passed H.R. 2, the Moving  
232 Forward Act, which would help us rebuild our economy and combat

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233 climate change. The bill invests more than \$126 billion in clean  
234 energy, energy efficiency, and deep decarbonization. There is  
235 no better way to stimulate the economy and create millions of  
236 good paying jobs, in my opinion, than to modernize our badly aging  
237 infrastructure. And the President has expressed interest in an  
238 infrastructure package, but he is going to need to exert some  
239 pressure on the Senate Majority Leader McConnell, who so far has  
240 -- refuses to act on an infrastructure bill.

241 And speaking of the Senate, I also want to discuss our nation's  
242 nuclear security mission, because the Senate continues to try  
243 to undermine that mission and the National Defense Authorization  
244 Act. Once again, this year, the Senate Armed Services Chairman  
245 attempted to strip the DOE of much of its authority over the  
246 National Nuclear Security Administration, and this was a really  
247 wrong-headed effort that threatens the important longstanding  
248 principle of civilian, not military, control over the nuclear  
249 weapons stockpile. It also stands to upend other non-nuclear  
250 weapons aspects of the deal we budget.

251 Fortunately, an amendment by Senators Cantwell and Manchin scaled  
252 back the initial Senate language, but I do firmly believe that  
253 the Defense Department should not have its hand in the Energy  
254 Department's budgeting process, and instead we should be  
255 strengthening the Secretary of Energy's role in managing the  
256 nuclear security mission, because NNSA seems to be going from

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257 quasi-independent to completely rogue with each passing year.  
258 Now turning back to or turning to the bulk power system, I do  
259 have some concerns, Mr. Secretary, about the way DOE is  
260 implementing an executive order limiting the use of bulk power  
261 system equipment produced by foreign adversaries. I support this  
262 effort as part of our ongoing efforts to protect our grid, but  
263 I think there is quite a bit of confusion surrounding DOE's  
264 implementation of the order. With the prohibitions on acquiring  
265 and installing this equipment already in place, there is a  
266 pressing need for guidance for energy projects, many of which  
267 depend on complex supply chains. And I look forward to an update  
268 on the Department's progress on finalizing this policy.

269 I also wanted to touch, finally, on an issue that I pressed with  
270 your predecessor, Secretary Perry, and also Under Secretary  
271 Menezes. DOE has fallen far behind on its legal deadlines for  
272 updating appliance efficiency standards. And this is almost hard  
273 to believe, but DOE has missed 26 statutory deadlines for updating  
274 efficiency standards.

275 And I appreciate the Department has recently and finally started  
276 the process of catching up on these deadlines by initiating  
277 rulemaking, but I also know that you have been putting quite a  
278 bit of resources into purely discretionary rulemaking, some of  
279 which seem designed to undercut rather than promote energy  
280 savings. For example, a discretionary interpretive rule in the

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281 works would make future improved efficiency standards for home  
282 furnaces almost impossible.

283 So we need to see more action from DOE now to update and finalize  
284 critical efficiency standards that save consumers money and  
285 reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I thank you again, Secretary  
286 Brouillette. Thank you for joining us today. I know it is always  
287 difficult, you know, with the COVID and with the doing things  
288 virtually. We go back and forth in terms of our ability to do  
289 everything virtually, but I do thank you for coming and being  
290 here today because this is a very important hearing.

291 And I yield back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

292 Mr. Rush. The Chairman of the full committee yields back. The  
293 Chair now recognizes Mr. Walden, the ranking member of the full  
294 committee, for five minutes for the purposes of an opening  
295 statement.

296 Mr. Walden. Well good morning or afternoon, depending on which  
297 coast you are on, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for holding this  
298 hearing.

299 I want to welcome Secretary Brouillette. It is great to have  
300 you back before the committee. Once again you have provided  
301 really strong leadership over the last seven months that you have  
302 been in office, and we appreciate that. And certainly, you have  
303 been fighting the COVID-19 virus and the pandemic as it has worked  
304 its way across every sector of our country, across the world,

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305 and certainly in the energy industry.

306 The unprecedented drop in oil prices has devastated the American  
307 gas and oil industry and cost upwards of 100,000 jobs, and the  
308 Department of Energy has been right in the action helping our  
309 country respond to this terrible situation. And so going  
310 forward, the work is on top of the other important  
311 responsibilities that the Department has, certainly, and these  
312 range from executing on the nation's nuclear deterrent mission  
313 to protecting our critical energy infrastructure, supporting a  
314 robust R&D program, keeping the nation's lab facilities and  
315 capabilities up to date, and cleaning up defense sites such as  
316 that at Hanford in Washington, across the river from my district.  
317 Most people do not appreciate all of the responsibilities that  
318 you have at the Department of Energy. It is a national security  
319 agency and an energy security agency, having designed and produced  
320 every nuclear warhead in the U.S. arsenal, powering our nuclear  
321 navy, and serving critical roles in nonproliferation,  
322 international nuclear security, and other energy security  
323 missions.

324 DOE is a world-class science, engineering, and technology agency.

325 It is an environmental engineering and cleanup agency. All of  
326 this is interconnected across a complex of national labs,  
327 production sites, and facilities, involving a contractor  
328 workforce approaching 100,000 people. Managing this enterprise

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329 is never easy, it is a complicated job and we know that.  
330 But the upshot is the tremendous benefits for the nation, for  
331 security, for science and innovation, and for keeping America  
332 in the lead across the energy landscape. The key ingredient for  
333 success here is the innovative science and engineering  
334 capabilities fostered through a cohesive DOE enterprise and the  
335 multidisciplinary teamwork that emerges from that.  
336 This synergy among the weapons labs, the science labs, and the  
337 energy and environment labs are critical for success. Think  
338 about the supercomputing and big data capabilities of the agency.  
339 The computational science in advancing computing architecture  
340 created by DOE's science and weapons programs is essential for  
341 modeling nuclear weapons stockpile.  
342 But the cross-mission benefits of this are clear. Look at the  
343 use of Oak Ridge's Summit computer to screen compounds for  
344 COVID-19's vaccine development. National security and materials  
345 science programs at the Pacific Northwest National Lab, which  
346 I have toured, have translated into technologies for scanning  
347 at airports, for cybersecurity protections, and even advanced  
348 battery production.  
349 And this works both ways. The advances in nuclear fuels and  
350 technology at the Idaho National Lab attracts the expertise and  
351 informs the knowledge base for Navy nuclear. You can extend this  
352 to other important missions. DOE's work on advanced nuclear,

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353 coupled with our work to ensure efficient NRC licensing, provides  
354 the foundation for expanding the peaceful use of atomic energy.  
355 This is the cornerstone of the nation's nuclear policy, a hallmark  
356 of civilian control of the nuclear enterprise, and an important  
357 tool not only for national security but also a key solution to  
358 exporting cleaner energy around the world. Our duty on this  
359 committee and in this Congress is to make sure the Secretary has  
360 the tools and authority he or she needs to execute the Department's  
361 missions. Our goal is to maximize the benefits of the DOE  
362 enterprise for America.

363 So I look forward to exploring what more we can do to be of  
364 assistance today, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Secretary. And I want  
365 to share the concerns expressed by the Chairman of the full  
366 committee with regards to the NDAA and what it does, purports  
367 to do to the civilian side of the nuclear weapons program and  
368 to diminish the important role of the Secretary of Energy, and  
369 Chairman Pallone and I are working together shoulder to shoulder  
370 on fixing this problem in the legislation the House is going to  
371 take up.

372 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I will yield back the balance of  
373 my time and look forward to the discussion.

374 Mr. Rush. The ranking member yields back. The Chair would like  
375 to remind members that pursuant to committee rules, all members'  
376 written opening statement shall be made a part of the committee's

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377 records.

378 And now it is my pleasure and honor to welcome once again before  
379 this committee our witness for today's hearing. As been noted,  
380 Secretary Brouillette is a former staff director on this  
381 committee, and we certainly want to welcome him back as the  
382 Secretary of Energy to testify before this committee.

383 Mr. Secretary, once again we welcome you. I enjoyed our  
384 conversation yesterday, and we look forward to your testimony.

385 But before we begin, Mr. Secretary, I would like to explain,  
386 I don't think I have to, but it says that now I should explain  
387 the lighting system.

388 In front of you is a series of lights. The light will initially  
389 be green at the start of your opening statement. The light will  
390 turn yellow when you have one minute remaining, and please begin  
391 to wrap up your testimony at that point. The light will turn  
392 red when your time expires. Secretary Brouillette, again welcome  
393 back to the committee, subcommittee rather, and you are now  
394 recognized for five minutes for an opening statement.

395 STATEMENT OF SECRETARY DAN BROUILLETTE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

396

397 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for  
398 the honor of being here again, and thank you for that gentle  
399 reminder. I must say it is much better to be on that side of  
400 the dais than on this side, but thank you for that gentle reminder.

401 And also, my compliments on that mask. I think you are rivaling  
402 our dearly departed friend Ron Dellums as the best dressed man  
403 in Congress. You do it quite well. But thank you, Chairman  
404 Rush. Thank you, Ranking Member Upton as well, as well as Full  
405 Committee Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Mr. Walden. It  
406 is an honor to appear before you today to discuss the United States  
407 Department of Energy's response to COVID-19. And I failed to  
408 mention, Mr. Rush, I would also like to thank you for your warm  
409 welcome at our Artificial Intelligence event last fall in Chicago.

410 The hospitality could not have been better. Thank you for that,  
411 sir. I appreciate that.

412 When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, President Trump  
413 very early on directed the whole-of-government approach to  
414 defeating this virus. And I am proud to report to you that DOE's  
415 national labs and their world-class facilities have been on the  
416 front lines of this important mission. Seven of our labs are  
417 partners in the COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium  
418 which the President announced in March. This public-private

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419 partnership, which is spearheaded by the White House, DOE, and  
420 IBM, including government, industry, and academic leaders, is  
421 unleashing the power of America's supercomputing resources to  
422 combat COVID-19 all around the globe. We are very excited about  
423 the growing international participation in this consortium to  
424 battle the pandemic worldwide.

425 We at DOE have established a National Virtual Biotechnology  
426 Laboratory which is using the full range of our facilities in  
427 the effort against COVID-19. We have set up a portal which will  
428 enable America's innovators to easily access essential resources  
429 and connect and partner with experts at all of our national  
430 laboratories.

431 And as the Chairman mentioned, the scientists have used Argonne  
432 Laboratory's Advanced Photon Source to characterize more than  
433 a dozen proteins which are potential targets for medicines and  
434 countermeasures from COVID-19, including one that allows it to  
435 hide from the immune system, and working with our Oak Ridge  
436 National Laboratory in Tennessee another protein that enables  
437 it to reproduce.

438 Researchers at Oak Ridge have screened more than 8,000 drug  
439 compounds for 77 that have potential use in this fight. Oak Ridge  
440 is also helping mass produce healthcare supplies such as masks  
441 and face shields, and they are doing it in record time. They  
442 are also producing and developing low-cost N95 respirators that

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443 can be cleaned and later reused. Scientists at the Berkeley Lab  
444 are using the facilities there to identify neutralizing  
445 antibodies that could be used as preventive treatments or  
446 post-exposure therapies.

447 This COVID-19 pandemic has also led to challenges that go well  
448 beyond the virus itself. In March, we faced an oversupply of  
449 oil due to some decisions made by key nations following the  
450 collapse of OPEC-Plus negotiations, while also facing a nearly  
451 catastrophic decline in demand due obviously to the pandemic.

452 The President facilitated an agreement between Saudi Arabia and  
453 Russia, the co-chairs of OPEC-Plus, on terms that were favorable  
454 to the United States. As the largest energy producer and consumer  
455 in the world, we were able to engage other nations from a position  
456 of strength and authority, and the agreement brought stability  
457 to energy markets around the world and it helped protect America's  
458 energy producers.

459 Following through on President Trump's direction, we opened the  
460 Strategic Petroleum Reserve to store excess oil from U.S.  
461 producers. Crude oil deliveries from roughly 21, of  
462 approximately 21 million barrels to the SPR have now been  
463 completed. DOE is also working closely with states and  
464 stakeholders to ensure that renewable energy and energy  
465 efficiency sectors make it to the other side of this pandemic.

466 In addition, our EERE Office is working with the National

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467 Association of State Energy Officials to develop post-COVID  
468 economic development proposals using existing resources.  
469 We also worked with our nation's governors and public and private  
470 sector partners to ensure that our critical energy infrastructure  
471 was fully operational. DOE assisted the industry with access  
472 to personal protective equipment and testing kits. We ensured  
473 the inclusion of the energy sector workers in the Department of  
474 Homeland Security's Guidance on the Essential Critical  
475 Infrastructure Workforce which promoted the ability of such  
476 workers to continue working during the closure orders and with  
477 social distancing. And similarly, the Department engaged in  
478 planning processes to sequester control center personnel onsite  
479 to ensure continuity of operations.  
480 As we return to full operations, we are renewing our energy  
481 endeavors and refocusing on important new priorities. The bulk  
482 power system, the backbone of the nation's electric grid, is  
483 coming under increasing threat from foreign adversaries. On May  
484 1st, President Trump signed an executive order to increase its  
485 security. My team and I will continue to work with other federal  
486 departments and industry partners to eliminate vulnerabilities  
487 and develop policies to ensure security and resiliency.  
488 That is my hope today, to make our nation safer and stronger,  
489 more prosperous, and more filled with promise than ever before.  
490 So thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity. I look

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491 forward to answering your questions.

492 [The statement of Secretary Brouillette follows:]

493

494 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

495 Mr. Rush. The Chair thanks the witness, and now we will proceed  
496 to questions. And the Chair will recognize members on each, the  
497 Democrat members for five minutes and recognize Republican  
498 members for five minutes. And now the Chair recognizes himself  
499 for five minutes for the purposes of questioning the witness.

500 Secretary Brouillette, for the past five years, the U.S. Energy  
501 and Employment Report, also known as USEER, has served as an  
502 essential resource for energy sector workforce insight. In view  
503 of current unemployment numbers and the woeful representation  
504 of minorities within the energy sector, these insights are now  
505 needed more than ever. Last December, the Congress appropriated  
506 \$1.7 million for the sixth annual USEER and reiterated their  
507 points of its using data collection methods consistent with  
508 previous installments to ensure accuracy. This means data  
509 collections should be, should begin this September.

510 Secretary Brouillette, what progress, if any, has the Department  
511 made toward producing the next USEER report and will it be on  
512 time?

513 Secretary Brouillette. The answer to that last question, sir,  
514 it will be on time. I have had many conversations with former  
515 Secretary Ernie Moniz about this as recently as this weekend as  
516 a matter of fact. It is our commitment to you that we are going  
517 to continue to provide this type of information, this type of  
518 data to the U.S. Congress.

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519 I have proposed that we add some data collection to this  
520 particular process. We are in fact slightly behind with the data  
521 collection. There is no secret to that. I will own that  
522 responsibility. We have fallen slightly behind primarily  
523 because of the COVID. We are working remotely. But nonetheless  
524 we plan to contract with a data collection service very quickly.

525 We will do that data collection all throughout August, September,  
526 and October of this year. We will then prepare the final report  
527 toward the end of this year and submit it to you.

528 Mr. Rush. I want to thank you. How will DOE deploy its resources  
529 to include those within the Office of Economic Impact and  
530 Diversity to address job losses and diversity and inclusion?

531 Secretary Brouillette. Well sir, it is a broad-based effort  
532 that we have at the Department of Energy. It focuses on not only  
533 the Department itself; it goes well beyond that and into the  
534 industry. But I will focus my comments on the Department itself  
535 and let you know what we have done since our last conversation  
536 which was I think approximately 18 months ago when I was before  
537 the committee.

538 You tasked me at that point to take a look at this, and I have  
539 done that and I want to report just really quickly. We have now  
540 revitalized what we refer to as our Minorities in Energy program  
541 at the Department. When I came back from that hearing, I  
542 immediately tasked James Campos, who I think you have met with

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543 many times, to do exactly that and the result of that effort is  
544 what we refer to as the new Equity in Energy initiative. And  
545 it is designed to advise me as the Secretary, but also expand  
546 the inclusion and participation in individuals in underserved  
547 communities in all programs at DOE and the energy sector more  
548 broadly.

549 And I will tell you from my perspective as the Secretary I will  
550 give you some quick results. The new hire diversity at the  
551 Department of Energy in fiscal year 2017, there were 17 percent  
552 minorities that were hired as new hires. I am happy to report  
553 to you that in fiscal year 2020, this year, that number has now  
554 jumped to 31 percent, so the program is working.

555 James is doing a great job leading that effort. I am proud of  
556 the fact that we are the only Department or one of the only  
557 Departments that has a program that is completely dedicated to  
558 this. And as you know, sir, James is a Senate-confirmed person,  
559 so it is a very high-ranking position within our Department and  
560 I think he is doing a great job. We are going to continue the  
561 good work in this program.

562 Mr. Rush. Mr. Secretary, I have just a few seconds left. Would  
563 you also address the FEMP program, I mentioned that on the phone  
564 to you yesterday, and what is the status on the FEMP program?  
565 Secretary Brouillette. The FEMP program is moving forward, sir.  
566 I think there is a couple things, energy efficiency in federal

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567 buildings is key to energy savings. I know that Chairman Pallone  
568 and others have mentioned some other energy efficiency programs  
569 that deal with appliances. But one of the greatest savings  
570 that we can find is in the federal complex itself. And I just  
571 recently had an opportunity to visit the roof of the Department  
572 of Energy, and I noticed that there are some solar panels up there  
573 that are badly outdated and we need to update them. So I am going  
574 to work with Ms. Kaptur on the Appropriations Committee and  
575 potentially find some additional resources that we can upgrade  
576 the efficiencies within our own Department but also work with  
577 other agencies to do exactly the same thing. That is where some  
578 of our greatest savings will come from.

579 Mr. Rush. Thank you. My time is concluded. I yield back  
580 whatever I have remaining. I now recognize the ranking member,  
581 Mr. Upton, for five minutes for the purposes of questioning the  
582 witness.

583 Mr. Upton. Well thanks again, Mr. Chairman. And Mr. Secretary,  
584 I want to ask a couple of questions, but I would like to begin  
585 on focusing on grid security. Back in May, the President issued  
586 an executive order to secure the U.S. bulk power system, and having  
587 many of us a number of classified briefings it is crystal clear  
588 that the threats to the bulk power system by foreign adversaries  
589 constitutes what could be a real national emergency.  
590 The grid is absolutely fundamental for our critical

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591 infrastructure, our national security, and our economy. If a  
592 foreign adversary were able to take control or degrade electrical  
593 equipment such as a transformer, we could be in very serious  
594 trouble. So what is the status of DOE's rulemaking to implement  
595 the executive order, and are there statutory authorities that  
596 Congress should consider that could provide DOE on a more  
597 promising basis?

598 Secretary Brouillette. Yeah. There we go. Now it is on.  
599 Thank you, sir, for that question. I appreciate the opportunity  
600 to respond. With regard to additional authorities that are  
601 needed, I am not quite sure that is necessary at this point.  
602 We have moved forward with implementation of the executive order.

603 I know that there is some confusion or perceived confusion in  
604 the industry. We want to alleviate the industry of any anxiety  
605 it might have about this as we move forward with a proposed rule  
606 later this year.

607 Just to elucidate a little bit about what it does, you know,  
608 as you mentioned, sir, the bulk power system is the backbone of  
609 the electric grid. It underpins everything in America with  
610 regard to our electric system. But what we are doing is we are  
611 seeking to operationalize the executive order through four  
612 pillars to implement it, and I will just run through them real  
613 quickly.

614 One, we want to prohibit foreign adversaries from supplying

615 particular bulk power system electrical equipment. We want to  
616 establish a list of pre-qualified vendors that the utility  
617 industry can use to purchase from. We want to develop advisory  
618 recommendations for the identification, the isolation, the  
619 monitoring, and the replacement of any currently at-risk  
620 equipment that is on the system. That does not mean, however,  
621 that we are going to rip and replace the entire electric grid  
622 in the United States. We are focused on the bulk power system,  
623 not at this moment or any other moment in the near term the  
624 distribution system. And then importantly, what the  
625 President has directed me to do is to create a task force. I  
626 will convene with others, the Secretary of Defense in particular,  
627 so that we can begin the process of perhaps recommending to you,  
628 the Congress, certain procurement policies that are going to be  
629 directly related to this national security mission.

630 Mr. Upton. Thanks. Should we be doing anything about gas  
631 pipelines as it relates to their safety?

632 Secretary Brouillette. I am sorry, Mr. Upton, I didn't hear  
633 that question.

634 Mr. Upton. Is there anything that we should do with our gas  
635 pipelines?

636 Secretary Brouillette. You know, Mr. Upton, you have a long  
637 history in the telecommunications world, and if I were to point  
638 to one thing that we can do an even more aggressive job with regard

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639 to pipelines, it would be in the area of cybersecurity. The major  
640 pipelines are doing just fine. We work with them very closely.

641 They are very much a part and parcel to what we do at DOE. The  
642 CEOs are very, very engaging and collaborative.

643 If I have a concern about pipelines in America today, it is perhaps  
644 with regard to some of the smaller members of the industry. They  
645 simply in some cases just do not have the resources that are needed  
646 to protect the infrastructure in the manner in which we would  
647 like to see it be protected. I would look forward to working  
648 with you, members of the committee, others in the industry, to  
649 help design programs and policies that might address what I think  
650 is a growing national security concern.

651 Mr. Upton. Finally, let me just ask you about a bill that I  
652 introduced a few weeks ago, H.R. 7435. It is the Methane  
653 Emissions Reduction Act. It authorizes DOE to reduce methane  
654 emission from flaring and venting natural gas during production  
655 activities. As you know, states are the private regulators of  
656 oil and gas production activities, so it is not a DOE regulatory  
657 program. The goal is to get DOE to work with the states, and  
658 certainly Michigan, to provide critical infrastructure and  
659 accelerate the most promising R&D related to new technology to  
660 reduce methane emissions.

661 While the oil and natural gas produced in the U.S. is already  
662 moving among the cleanest in the world, would you agree that there

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663 is more that we can do to reduce methane emission even further?

664 Secretary Brouillette. I didn't hear the last part.

665 Mr. Upton. Would you agree that it would be advisable to reduce  
666 methane emission more than what we do today and to be able to  
667 work with the states?

668 Secretary Brouillette. Yes. Yes. I do agree. Methane is a  
669 very intense carbon or a very intense greenhouse gas, and I think  
670 it is important that we reduce the emissions. While I recognize  
671 as you pointed out this may be an issue perhaps better addressed  
672 in the EPA world, I would also report to the members of the  
673 committee that we are working with the industry, and we have looked  
674 at various technologies that might help with methane emissions.  
675 I was just recently in Pennsylvania. I saw some product there  
676 that is actually made from coal. After the refining process in  
677 coal, you are left with a very fine powder which can be added  
678 to a natural gas pipeline, which actually works to seal the  
679 pipeline in a manner that contains the methane. So perhaps it  
680 will help the industry over the long term to reduce these types  
681 of emissions.

682 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes  
683 the Chairman of the full committee, Mr. Pallone, for five minutes  
684 for the purposes of questioning the witness.

685 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary, I wanted  
686 to try to get in this five minutes some questions about the

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687 Secretary's or your role or authority over NNSA, and then I wanted  
688 to ask a little bit about the appliance efficiency rules. So  
689 I will try to get through it.

690 Mr. Secretary, there has been efforts over the years as you know  
691 to strip away the Secretary of Energy's authority over NNSA, and  
692 most recently to strengthen the Nuclear Weapons Council's  
693 authority in determining NNSA's budget within the Secretary's  
694 own Department. Just tell me why you think this is a wrong  
695 approach.

696 Secretary Brouillette. Well sir, let me see where I can start  
697 with that. I think it is important to recognize as I think  
698 Chairman Rush mentioned and Chairman Walden alluded -- Ranking  
699 Member Walden alluded to, not many people understand the  
700 Department of Energy and its actual mission. They don't know  
701 the breadth of the portfolio or the breadth of the mission.

702 Every year the Secretary of Energy along with the Secretary of  
703 Defense must certify the stockpile and, in essence and plain  
704 language, ensure to the President that it will do what he or she  
705 would like it to do if they needed to use it. That certification  
706 process is signed at the Cabinet level, and it is important that  
707 the Secretary of Energy see the entire process for the development  
708 of the budget, the operations within NNSA, all of the activities  
709 that occur within the national weapons labs in order to remain  
710 comfortable that that certification is in fact solid, for lack

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711 of a better term. It is very important that I see that.  
712 The Chairman. And then I think this is extremely helpful. I  
713 am concerned about the impact that these, you know, that what  
714 the NNSA, you know, what the Nuclear Weapons Council is trying  
715 to do is going to have a negative impact on DOE and its budget.  
716 But from a broader perspective, some argue the NNSA mission is  
717 more aligned with the Department of Defense.  
718 Why should NNSA be housed in the Department of Energy? Why would  
719 you disagree that it should be more defense-oriented?  
720 Secretary Brouillette. Well you know, the security of the  
721 national security enterprise, writ large, it has always been  
722 firmly to ground and always been firmly grounded. If you look  
723 back at the history of the Department, all the way back to the  
724 Atomic Energy Commission, our predecessor, it is grounded in the  
725 science, the technology, the engineering, and the manufacturing  
726 expertise of the DOE national laboratory system. And NNSA draws  
727 heavily upon the various elements of all of the DOE laboratories  
728 and the sites, and it creates a synergy that can't be replicated  
729 anywhere else in the U.S. Government. It certainly can't be  
730 replicated within the DOE complex.  
731 The Chairman. All right. And then I wanted to, just in the  
732 last two minutes about the appliance efficiency rules. We have  
733 already had a little discussion. How many efficiency rules do  
734 you expect to finalize between now and the end of the year, and

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735 how many response to statutory deadlines and how many are  
736 discretionary?

737 I know that this problem was inherited by you. I am not  
738 suggesting that you created it, but I would like to know how many  
739 efficiency rules you do expect to finalize between now and the  
740 end of the year, and how that -- which ones are statutory and  
741 which ones are discretionary, if you could.

742 Secretary Brouillette. To be honest and to be just point blank,  
743 sir, I will do as many as I possibly can. I know this has been  
744 an issue for you. I know that you have raised it with our under  
745 secretary, Mark Menezes. I appreciate the concern you have.  
746 I reviewed Mark's answer before the committee. I agree with it.

747 I think he is correct about some of those things. But I just  
748 want to let you know that I will do as many as I can before the  
749 end of this year.

750 And I will just tell you really quickly, thus far in 2020, we  
751 have published 18 notices that are related to conservation  
752 standards, and nine notices that are relating to test procedures,  
753 and that is about three times more than what we did in 2018.  
754 So we are beginning to make some real progress here and you have  
755 my firm commitment that we will move as aggressively as we possibly  
756 can.

757 The Chairman. Well I appreciate that. And again, the number  
758 of missed legal deadlines for new standards has grown from three

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759 to 26 since President Trump took office. I don't blame you  
760 because you haven't been there that long, but I do blame the Trump  
761 Administration in general. And I would like to see you focus  
762 more on meeting legal deadlines and less on discretionary rules  
763 that undercut energy savings, but thank you for that response.

764 Thank you for being with us today.

765 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

766 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes  
767 the ranking member for five minutes for the purposes of  
768 questioning the witness.

769 Mr. Walden. Well thank you, Mr. Secretary, for your leadership  
770 of the agency and your commitment to meeting these deadlines.

771 As you know as I mentioned, Chairman Pallone and I have jointly  
772 teamed up on an amendment that integrates personnel of DOE and  
773 NNSA so legal budgetary and other mission support functions  
774 operate more effectively across the DOE enterprise, and the  
775 Administrator can focus more effectively on mission execution  
776 consistent with DOE authorities.

777 So my question is, why does it make sense from your perspective  
778 for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy to  
779 co-chair the Nuclear Weapons Council, the NWC? Why does that  
780 make sense?

781 Secretary Brouillette. Well Mr. Walden, thank you for that.

782 I think the first reason it makes sense is because it recognizes

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783 the prioritization and the importance the nation places on our  
784 nuclear deterrent. It elevates the visibility and frankly the  
785 accountability of our nuclear deterrent, and it better ensures  
786 the fidelity of the budget process in both of our agencies.

787 I think it is important to recognize that, you know, for instance,  
788 the Secretary of Energy not only has the responsibility for the  
789 warhead program, I also have the responsibility ultimately for  
790 the cleanup of the manufacturing processes that are used in the  
791 development of the warheads under our Environmental Management  
792 program. Both of these are funded with Defense dollars, 050  
793 dollars.

794 And if you think about it as a pie, what I think some of the  
795 Senate language would do is to, if you think about it as a pie,  
796 if you make, if you take one piece and make it bigger, the other  
797 pieces are typically going to get smaller.

798 So in the case of the Environmental Management program, if you  
799 have a sub-Cabinet council within the Department of Defense  
800 focused exclusively on the weapons portion of the budget, what  
801 might happen is that the weapons program gets much, much larger  
802 at the expense of the Environmental Management program.

803 Only the Secretary of Energy is in the position to balance the  
804 needs all across the programs. Now with that said, I think it  
805 is important to, you know, to suggest that look, I am a very strong  
806 supporter of the weapons program. That deterrent is critical

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807 to our national security. It has to be robust. There are many  
808 things that we have to do to improve its performance. But at  
809 the same time, it is also important, it is imperative that we  
810 honor our moral obligations to clean up the facilities once we  
811 are done with the manufacturing.

812 Mr. Walden. Well I appreciate that. And you know, representing  
813 a district that is right across the river from Hanford where there  
814 are I think 140-some enormous big buried tanks of nuclear sludge  
815 left over from the -- -

816 [Audio malfunction in the hearing room.]

817 Mr. Walden. -- -collapsed at times and release radiation.  
818 That clean-up effort is essential to the public health --

819 Mr. Rush. Will the ranking member please yield?

820 Members who are on the -- who are participating remotely, will  
821 you please mute your phone until you, I ask you to unmute. Will  
822 members please mute your phone, those who are remotely  
823 participating in this hearing. We are getting feedback. The  
824 gentleman will proceed.

825 Mr. Walden. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate  
826 that. Anyway, I am very concerned about making sure we stay on  
827 pace to get the Hanford mess cleaned up that dates clear back  
828 to World War II.

829 On another matter, can you describe how you work with the Defense  
830 Department to plan and budget for the nation's defense nuclear

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831 programs?

832 Secretary Brouillette. I am sorry, Mr. Walden. I didn't hear  
833 that.

834 Mr. Walden. Yeah. If you can talk about how you work with the  
835 Department of Defense on the budgeting --

836 Secretary Brouillette. Sure.

837 Mr. Walden. -- for the nation's nuclear defense programs, that  
838 would be good. And does the language in the NDAA, does that make  
839 you subordinate, a Cabinet Secretary, to an under secretary at  
840 DOD?

841 Secretary Brouillette. Well I think some of the original drafts  
842 of the amendment perhaps would have done that. The way it  
843 typically works is that the DOD sets the requirements, the  
844 military requirements that it wants, and it does it through the  
845 Nuclear Posture Review in the case of the warhead program. What  
846 we do at DOE is match our manufacturing capabilities to their  
847 military requirements. This is coordinated through the Nuclear  
848 Weapons Council, which is chaired by an under secretary of Defense  
849 and then the Under Secretary of Energy who runs the NNSA is also  
850 a member, as well as the Chairman of STRATCOM and other important  
851 members of the military complex. Together they review those  
852 requirements and then we establish a budget based upon their  
853 requirements.

854 My understanding of some of the early Senate language is that

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855 I would be required to submit the DOE budget to the Weapons  
856 Council. So in that sense, the Secretary would be subordinated  
857 to a sub-council within DOE, and I think the language would have  
858 further required that I accept their recommendations, and further  
859 send those to OMB and then ultimately to Congress for  
860 consideration. As I mentioned earlier, if that were the process  
861 that the Congress were to adopt, it would present some unique  
862 problems to the clean-up facilities all across the world.

863 You asked earlier though about the importance of, you know, the  
864 elevation and maybe moving this to the Secretary's level, and  
865 perhaps providing both the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary  
866 of Energy some additional line of sight. I think it is also  
867 important to remember that, you know, as direct reports to the  
868 President and as members of the National Security Council, perhaps  
869 the both of us are in the best position to balance the needs of  
870 our respective Departments.

871 Mr. Walden. All right. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, and I have  
872 run out of time. Thanks for your leadership and for answering  
873 our questions. We appreciate it.

874 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you, sir.

875 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes  
876 the gentleman from California, Mr. Peters, for five minutes.  
877 I see Mr. Peters is not available. Now the Chair recognizes the  
878 gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Doyle, for five minutes.

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879 Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Chairman Rush and Ranking Member Upton,  
880 for holding this hearing. And thank you, Mr. Secretary, for  
881 joining us today. We are anxious to get you down to the NETL  
882 in Pittsburgh, and I can promise you some Primanti Brothers  
883 sandwiches and Iron City beer after the meeting, so hope we can  
884 set that up soon. This pandemic has upended everyone's life,  
885 and it is causing tremendous damage to every part of our economy,  
886 the energy sector included. We need a national strategy not only  
887 to combat climate change, but to help our economic recovery once  
888 it is safe to do so. And I believe there are many pathways that  
889 we can take towards rebuilding our economy and creating a  
890 sustainable future, and I hope we can count on the Department  
891 of Energy's extensive capabilities to be a partner in these  
892 efforts.

893 Mr. Secretary, not only has this pandemic resulted in over a  
894 million energy sector jobs being lost, but it has also brought  
895 much lower wholesale energy prices. Even before this drop, many  
896 nuclear power plants were struggling to stay open. Tell me, what  
897 policies can we enact to ensure that we don't shut down more  
898 well-run nuclear power plants, and how can we ensure as advanced  
899 nuclear technology becomes commercialized that we are building  
900 these plants and communities that have been hurt by the closing  
901 of industry or fossil fuel plants?

902 Secretary Brouillette. So thank you, Mr. Doyle, for that

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903 question. I appreciate your concern. I have a similar concern  
904 as well. I think that in the case of nuclear we have too many  
905 facilities that are closing at a much too earlier, a much too  
906 aggressive rate.

907 We have begun a process, I just a visited a facility down in  
908 Florida, to help permit life extension permits for these  
909 facilities. The one that I visited in Florida is now authorized  
910 to operate for up to 80 years -- very, very safely, I might add.

911 It is very important that we look at these facilities and grant  
912 those types of permits, and we will be working closely with our  
913 colleagues at the NRC and others to ensure that that moves forward.

914 That is one step.

915 The second step is to follow up on the outline or the strategy  
916 that we put forth in our Nuclear Fuels Working Group. You know,  
917 in that working group we are developing various proposals; there  
918 are about 10. It is, one, to address what we can see as a concern  
919 in America related to the front end of the fuel cycle.

920 We want to develop our mining capabilities in uranium. We want  
921 to establish a uranium reserve. We importantly want to develop  
922 conversion and enrichment services here in America so that the  
923 civilian fleet can buy from American fuel supply. We think that  
924 adds to our national security.

925 It is also important that we address some of the needs for advanced  
926 reactors and that is also part of this working group's report,



927 is that we are going to develop accident-tolerant fuels. We are  
928 going to develop what is known as high assay LEU, low enriched  
929 uranium. It is important for us to develop this fuel because  
930 it is what will allow the smaller reactors to come online, and  
931 hopefully we can catalyze enough investment and enough market  
932 interest in these that we can have them replace some of these  
933 older, aging, and in some cases, too large facilities.

934 Nuclear has a unique characteristic or a unique challenge, I  
935 should say, at certain times. They produce an enormous amount  
936 of electricity, and it is all not always needed. As these  
937 communities begin to develop, it is not always needed. We don't  
938 need one gigawatt of power perhaps as we move to a more distributed  
939 electrical grid all throughout the country. We need perhaps  
940 smaller forms of generation.

941 Mr. Doyle. Well thank you. You know, as we add more  
942 intermittent power to the grid, flexibility seems to be vital  
943 in to making sure the grid is reliable, and energy storage  
944 obviously is key to that. Can you provide us with a quick update  
945 on the ongoing activities being undertaken by the Department's  
946 Grand Energy Storage Challenge? What specific actions are going  
947 on right now?

948 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. Well what we have announced is  
949 a Grand Challenge. What we are looking for is a next generation  
950 of grid-scale storage or the next generation of battery storage.

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951 But importantly, we need to find battery technologies that would  
952 allow us to bring to market grid-scale storage. It is critical  
953 that we do this very, very quickly so that we can continue to  
954 see the implementation and development of renewable technologies.

955 If we are going to lose our baseload power at the rate in which  
956 we are losing it, at some point I am afraid that we might have  
957 a gap. And as you know and as members of the committee know so  
958 very well, today at least with the technologies that we have,  
959 renewable power depends almost entirely upon the provision of  
960 baseload electricity all throughout the country. So if we are  
961 going to lose that baseload at the rate in which we are losing  
962 it, and we are not going to be able to build enormous nuclear  
963 plants as we just discussed, then it is important that we develop  
964 the battery technologies.

965 We did announce the launch pad out at PNNL. It is going to be  
966 a brand-new facility, a brand-new laboratory that we will use  
967 to help develop some of these newer battery technologies.

968 Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Mr. Secretary, thank  
969 you. Look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh. And Mr.  
970 Chairman, I will yield back.

971 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you, sir.

972 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes  
973 the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Latta, for five minutes.

974 Mr. Latta. Well thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you very

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975 much for holding today's hearing. And thanks very much to the  
976 Secretary for appearing before us today. We really appreciate  
977 it.

978 Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, the United States was faced  
979 with a range of challenges that threatens stability and security  
980 over energy interests, including the threat of cyber attacks to  
981 our grid security, nuclear supply chain vulnerabilities, and  
982 threats to the competitiveness of our domestic nuclear industry.

983 Unfortunately, COVID-19 has only made these problems worse.  
984 On the issues of the nuclear supply chain and the need to maintain  
985 a durable domestic nuclear industry, we need to pursue policies  
986 that will be good for our economy and consistent with our security  
987 policies to counter Russia and China. These policies include  
988 building robust sources for domestic uranium and conversion.  
989 I am pleased to see DOE's efforts to support the establishment  
990 of a uranium reserve, and I appreciate the assistance your staff  
991 has provided my office as we draft legislation to authorize this  
992 reserve.

993 We must also support efforts to improve our nation's grid security  
994 and resiliency against cyber threats. Two bipartisan bills that  
995 I have led on, H.R. 359 and H.R. 360, along with my good friend,  
996 the gentleman from California, Mr. McNerney, have helped DOE in  
997 this effort, and I hope the Chairman will work with us in a  
998 bipartisan way to see these bills soon come to the floor for a

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999 vote.

1000 Mr. Secretary, on the nuclear issues I have raised, how vital  
1001 is it that the United States build up its own domestic nuclear  
1002 supply chain, and how will a strategic uranium reserve help us  
1003 do this?

1004 Secretary Brouillette. There it goes. The button wasn't coming  
1005 on there for a minute. As I mentioned earlier, I think it is  
1006 absolutely critical that we develop and more further develop the  
1007 front end of the fuel cycle here in America. You know, we have  
1008 lost our leadership edge in America with regard to the provision  
1009 of nuclear power. And today, I don't have the exact number, but  
1010 the vast majority of the fuel that is purchased by the civilian  
1011 nuclear fleet here in the United States is purchased primarily  
1012 from Russia and they supply the fuel chain.

1013 So if we were to lose that, I think we endanger Americans all  
1014 across the country, and it is very important for us to address.

1015 That is what we are attempting to do. We think we should create  
1016 a reserve, a uranium reserve that includes not just pulling the  
1017 uranium out of the mine, but all of the processes that go along  
1018 with it -- so the conversion process, the enrichment process.

1019 We think we need to bring these businesses back to America to  
1020 ensure the security of our fleet and to ensure the security of  
1021 the provision of electric power here in the United States.

1022 So that is the commitment of our Administration. That is what

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1023 we are looking for, support for in this Nuclear Fuels Working  
1024 Group.

1025 Mr. Latta. Well thanks very much, because I appreciate what  
1026 DOE is doing. And would you support legislation then that would  
1027 ensure the durability of a program like this by specifically  
1028 authorizing it?

1029 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. Yes.

1030 Mr. Latta. Okay, great. And I really appreciate that. On the  
1031 grid security issues, in your testimony you reference the  
1032 Administration's concerns about securing the bulk power system,  
1033 as evidenced by the President's executive order in May. How  
1034 important is it to secure the bulk power system against cyber  
1035 threats, and do you believe legislation like H.R. 360, which  
1036 establishes a voluntary cyber sense program to test the  
1037 cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in  
1038 the bulk power system, would be helpful in this effort?

1039 Secretary Brouillette. I would certainly work with you to  
1040 develop legislation and look for the authorities that might be  
1041 helpful. I feel that we have most of what we need at this moment  
1042 in time, but I would be very much agreeable to working with you  
1043 on a potential bill that might further address some of the issues.

1044 With regard to the bulk power thing and what we are seeing all  
1045 throughout the industry, and what we have noticed in some of the  
1046 power marketing administrations that we run at DOE like BPA and

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1047 what is known as WAPA, the Western Area Power Administration,  
1048 we have noticed that much of the manufacturing for the equipment  
1049 that goes into our system is being made in China. And China as  
1050 we know has changed its doctrinal approach to the United States,  
1051 and they have become more and more of an adversarial nation.

1052 And what we are beginning to be concerned about is perhaps the  
1053 provision of some technologies within the equipment that we are  
1054 purchasing that allows communications back to Beijing or may allow  
1055 some manipulation of the electric grid because of the equipment  
1056 that is being placed into things like transformers.

1057 So we have identified this. We are working very closely with  
1058 one of our national laboratories. We are evaluating a certain  
1059 piece of equipment right now that is in the public domain. And  
1060 we look forward to providing some reports not only to the  
1061 intelligence community within the interagency, but also to the  
1062 United States Congress as well as to our findings there.

1063 Mr. Latta. Well thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. Mr.  
1064 Chairman, my time has expired, and I yield back.

1065 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes  
1066 Mr. Sarbanes of Maryland for five minutes. Mr. Sarbanes, are  
1067 you there?

1068 The Chair now recognizes Mr. McNerney for five minutes.

1069 I understand Mr. Sarbanes is having some problems unmuting his  
1070 microphone. Mr. Sarbanes, we will return to you as soon as you

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1071 are ready. Mr. McNerney, are you there?

1072 Mr. McNerney. Yes. I am unmuted now. Can you hear me?

1073 Mr. Rush. All right. Mr. McNerney, you are recognized for five  
1074 minutes.

1075 Mr. McNerney. Well I thank the Chairman and the ranking member  
1076 for the hearing. It is a very timely topic, and I thank the  
1077 Secretary for showing up and helping us understand what is going  
1078 on out there in the Department of Energy. You know, the Lawrence  
1079 Livermore Lab and Sandia Laboratory, national laboratories, are  
1080 just outside of my district. Mr. Secretary, could you go over  
1081 a little bit of what these two laboratories are doing with regard  
1082 to the pandemic?

1083 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. There we go.

1084 So yes, sir, and I will get you a very detailed report on some  
1085 of the activities that are occurring in those labs. But in a  
1086 very high-level way, I will tell you that both labs have been  
1087 engaged. What we have done is we have utilized the bioscience  
1088 capabilities in particular of those two labs to help identify  
1089 the proteins that are unique to this particular coronavirus.

1090 And as we have done that, we have been able to advise some of  
1091 the doctors about the reactions to certain drugs. We have been  
1092 able to predict in certain cases the spread of the virus. Both  
1093 labs have very capable artificial intelligence experts there and  
1094 they have helped us design predictive modeling in certain cases

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1095 that can, in certain cases, go all the way down to the county  
1096 level. And they have been very, very aggressive in doing that  
1097 and we appreciate their support.

1098 Mr. McNerney. Well, good. I look forward to the detailed  
1099 reports that you have there, Mr. Secretary.

1100 As you noted in your testimony, our nation's electric grid, the  
1101 bulk power grid, is coming under increasing pressure. This has  
1102 been discussed by a couple of other of our members here this  
1103 morning. I am concerned that the executive office is not doing  
1104 enough to counter the threat beyond the issuing the executive  
1105 order. Can you provide us as a committee an update on Russia's  
1106 cybersecurity capability as they relate to the grid, and why  
1107 hasn't the President been more aggressive on addressing their  
1108 capabilities?

1109 Secretary Brouillette. I didn't hear the first part of that  
1110 question. I apologize.

1111 Mr. McNerney. Well, basically, the nation is coming under, our  
1112 bulk grid is coming under increasing threat particularly from  
1113 Russia, and what I would like to know is what is Russia's  
1114 capability and what has the administration done to counter that  
1115 other than just issuing an executive order?

1116 Secretary Brouillette. Capabilities with regard to what?

1117 Mr. McNerney. The cyber attack capabilities on our nation's  
1118 --



1119 Secretary Brouillette. Oh, cyber attack. I am sorry. I didn't  
1120 quite catch that when you first asked the question. Russia  
1121 is a very sophisticated cyber actor in the marketplace. What  
1122 we have done at the Department of Energy is to utilize our  
1123 supercomputing capabilities in places like Oak Ridge, at PNNL  
1124 out in Washington State, and we have begun very aggressively  
1125 applying things like artificial intelligence to cyber  
1126 technologies. And what it has allowed us to do is to blunt many  
1127 of the attacks that we see coming from places like Russia. And  
1128 I would daresay that they are perhaps the most sophisticated cyber  
1129 actor in the marketplace today, perhaps followed very closely  
1130 by China, and then by Iran.

1131 But that is our contribution to this national effort that is  
1132 being led by a number of different players including the U.S.  
1133 Department of Defense Cyber Command.

1134 Mr. McNerney. Well, honestly, I haven't seen any evidence of  
1135 aggressive administration action to counter that threat, so I  
1136 think it would be in the nation's interest to acknowledge that  
1137 threat publicly so that Americans are aware of it and also to  
1138 help identify what we can do to prevent that and to counter that.

1139 Going on, as you may be aware, I am the lead sponsor of the Nuclear  
1140 Waste Amendments Policy Act of 2019 along with Mr. Shimkus. The  
1141 bipartisan bill passed out of committee unanimously, which shows  
1142 that there is a significant supporting in the House and in this

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1143 committee to move forward with nuclear waste handling.

1144 So what I am wondering is considering the decades-long standstill  
1145 over the debate on the Yucca Mountain, how does the administration  
1146 envision developing a science-based solution that can earn the  
1147 approval of the states involved?

1148 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, sir. With regard to your first  
1149 question, I would be happy, sir, to come up and brief you in a  
1150 classified setting on some of the activities around Russian cyber  
1151 activity. I would be happy to do that at your convenience, so  
1152 I will reach out to your office and schedule something, if you  
1153 don't mind.

1154 Mr. McNerney. Okay. I appreciate that.

1155 Secretary Brouillette. With regard to, you know, spent fuel  
1156 storage, you know, as you know the Congress has been deadlocked  
1157 on funding for that particular program for many, many years.  
1158 Our authority to do anything is restricted somewhat by the Nuclear  
1159 Waste Policy Act. We are using the scientific capabilities  
1160 within the Department of Energy, our nuclear expertise, to  
1161 potentially explore other options. We are somewhat limited.

1162 We can look at interim storage ideas, but only within a very small  
1163 window and a very small window of authority in the current law.

1164 So I am happy to share those with you. I will come back and  
1165 brief you at your convenience on that as well.

1166 Mr. McNerney. Okay. I will be glad to work with you on that,

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1167 Mr. Secretary. It is an important issue that we need to solve,  
1168 so thank you. I yield back.

1169 Secretary Brouillette. Sure.

1170 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1171 the gentlelady from Washington State, Ms. McMorris Rodgers, for  
1172 5 minutes.

1173 Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Thank you, Chairman.

1174 Thank you, Secretary Brouillette, for being here today, being  
1175 with us today.

1176 Good morning, everyone.

1177 I appreciate the work of the Department of Energy and what you  
1178 are doing to secure America's future and ensure the safety of  
1179 our grid from foreign adversaries whether it is Russia or China  
1180 or others. I share some of my other colleagues' concerns about  
1181 provisions in the Senate NDAA that threatened to undermine the  
1182 Secretary of Energy's management and oversight of our nuclear  
1183 weapons program. As has been pointed out, this misguided effort  
1184 would erode the Secretary's budgetary oversight of the National  
1185 Security Administration, the Nuclear Security Administration,  
1186 with the unprecedented insertion of the Nuclear Weapons Council  
1187 into DOE's budget preparation and oversight process.

1188 The American atomic energy programs have been under civilian  
1189 control since the end of World War II and the establishment of  
1190 the Atomic Energy Commission, DOE's predecessor, I believe,

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1191 maintaining clear civilian and Cabinet-level oversight of our  
1192 nuclear weapons program is essential for our nation. Moves that  
1193 insert the Defense Department into DOE's planning could also have  
1194 a harmful impact on other important priorities like the ongoing  
1195 cleanup of our country's nuclear production complexes.

1196 Just outside my district near the Tri-Cities in Washington State  
1197 is the Hanford site, which others have mentioned, and it produced  
1198 plutonium for the Manhattan Project during World War II. The  
1199 inventions in nuclear technology at Hanford helped end the war  
1200 and begin our nation's global leadership in nuclear energy.

1201 However, these early developments in nuclear technology came at  
1202 a cost, and after 40 years of production Hanford now has to undergo  
1203 a massive, ongoing cleanup of radioactive material.

1204 Secretary Brouillette, thank you for your leadership in ensuring  
1205 authority and control over nuclear weapon programs remain fully  
1206 within DOE under your Cabinet-level control. Could you explain  
1207 how the provisions in the Senate NDAA would have negative  
1208 consequences for cleaning up former nuclear production such as  
1209 at Hanford or other important priorities?

1210 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, ma'am. I will do exactly that,  
1211 I think. I need to go and look and see what is the current status  
1212 of the NDAA in the Senate and see what language. I know that  
1213 there were a few amendments offered just prior to the bill's  
1214 consideration on the floor. I will go and do that.

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1215 But, importantly, as I understand the first drafts of the NDAA  
1216 as we saw it in the public domain, it would have subordinated  
1217 the Secretary of Energy and perhaps even the Secretary of Defense  
1218 at some level to the Nuclear Weapons Council. And what it did  
1219 was it would have required me to submit the U.S. Department of  
1220 Energy budget to that council for their consideration and they  
1221 would provide the recommendations to the Department, of which  
1222 I would be required under the original drafts to submit that to  
1223 the OMB and potentially to the Congress as well.

1224 In that case, what we would have is sub-Cabinet-level officials  
1225 determining not only the weapons program budget, but perhaps  
1226 disastrously altering other programs within not only the  
1227 Department of Energy but the Department of Defense as well. As  
1228 I explained in one of the earlier questions, if we think about  
1229 the budget as a pie, if you make one piece bigger, because of  
1230 the budget caps that are in place in the federal law, by  
1231 definition, the other pieces of the pie have to get smaller.

1232 And because the Environmental Management program is also funded  
1233 by Defense dollars, making the weapons program bigger without  
1234 some adjustment to the cap would, by definition, make the  
1235 environmental management or the cleanup portion of that  
1236 particular budget smaller. And I think that as the Secretary  
1237 of Energy, I am perhaps in the better position to make that  
1238 judgment about what balance should be struck between these two

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1239 important programs.

1240 I fully support --

1241 Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Okay.

1242 Secretary Brouillette. -- the weapons program, but I also

1243 understand the moral obligation we have to clean up sites like

1244 Hanford.

1245 Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Thank you. I look forward to working

1246 with you on that.

1247 Also, just wanted -- another critical issue is the national

1248 security around safeguarding our grid, and I am especially

1249 concerned about potential vulnerabilities in critical components

1250 manufactured by foreign adversaries such as China and Russia.

1251 I applaud the administration's swiftness to action to protect

1252 the grid from these foreign threats by prohibiting such critical

1253 bulk power components from being installed in our grid through

1254 the executive order signed by President Trump back in May. I

1255 believe the federal government needs to involve the energy sector,

1256 including domestic vendors and manufacturers, to ensure this

1257 order is implemented effectively.

1258 Mr. Secretary, would you commit to working closely with the

1259 stakeholders at DOE to develop the further rulemaking to do so?

1260 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. You

1261 have my commitment for that.

1262 Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Thank you. I yield back.

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1263 Mr. Rush. The gentlelady's time is up. She yields back. The  
1264 chair now -- I understand that Mr. Sarbanes is ready for his 5  
1265 minutes. He is recognized for 5 minutes for questioning the  
1266 witness.

1267 Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you hear me?

1268 Mr. Rush. We hear you quite well.

1269 Mr. Sarbanes. Okay, thanks very much. There is an echo, I  
1270 think. There we go. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the hearing.

1271 Obviously, this pandemic has had a profound effect on the  
1272 economy. The energy sector has certainly felt that as well.  
1273 And as we look to stimulate the economy moving forward and recover,  
1274 we can build on an economy that is more equitable, more resilient,  
1275 and promotes a cleaner and healthier future for our communities.

1276 I know we feel strongly about that.

1277 I wanted to focus my questions for the Secretary today on  
1278 renewable energy, specifically solar energy. The Office of  
1279 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, EERE, has been a smart  
1280 return on investment for taxpayers. A net benefit, I think, of  
1281 about \$230 billion. And particularly for low income families,  
1282 these kinds of programs in EERE help reduce barriers, allow low  
1283 income communities to reduce energy consumption which also saves  
1284 money.

1285 In fact, ACEEE has found that for families living in large cities,  
1286 the average low-income household's energy burden was more than

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1287 three times as high as that of non-low income households -- seven  
1288 percent compared with about two percent for their wealthier  
1289 counterparts. And, certainly, during this time of economic  
1290 instability, reducing that energy burden and cost savings is one  
1291 way we can help those communities move forward.

1292 Solar energy in particular has been an economic driver, employing  
1293 over 240,000 Americans, generating \$17 billion in investment in  
1294 our nation's economy. Unfortunately, with COVID-19 we have  
1295 deployed 37 percent less solar capacity than was forecasted and  
1296 developers have had difficulty securing financing under these  
1297 conditions. And again, it disproportionately impacts small  
1298 businesses, newer companies, and ultimately impacts households.

1299 Secretary Brouillette, in your testimony you mentioned the  
1300 administration's support for solar in the portfolio, but I have  
1301 to say that the administration's budget doesn't reflect that  
1302 support. There was a proposed cut of over 70 percent in the EERE  
1303 and the Solar Energy Technologies Office, which we tried to  
1304 reverse, I am pleased to say, in the House appropriations bill  
1305 that has been released.

1306 But in the face of such economic uncertainty, I would hope that  
1307 we could count on DOE to promote solar energy which has all of  
1308 these benefits that are related to workforce, cost to consumers,  
1309 and so forth. I feel this particularly because in Baltimore we  
1310 have worked in the past with the Department of Energy to bring

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1311 this potential to low income homeowners through a program called  
1312 Baltimore Shine, and it would allow all communities to take  
1313 advantage of low-cost solar energy. Mr. Secretary, will you  
1314 commit to ensuring that communities, especially low income and  
1315 vulnerable communities, are able to take advantage of the low-cost  
1316 energy and skilled job opportunities offered by solar technology  
1317 as we are trying to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?  
1318 Secretary Brouillette. Mr. Sarbanes, yes, I can. And as a  
1319 resident of Maryland that hits particularly close to home for  
1320 me. So thank you for your service. Thank you for the question  
1321 and I look forward to working with you on this. We do  
1322 support solar technologies and I will just tell you really quickly  
1323 what we are looking at. We are looking at some of the next  
1324 generation of solar technologies. Much of what is on the market  
1325 today, photovoltaic-type technologies, I don't want to call them  
1326 antiquated. They are not completely antiquated, but they have  
1327 been around for a very long time and they are somewhat mature.  
1328 So when we look at investing research dollars at the Department  
1329 of Energy, we have made a decision that perhaps rather than  
1330 continuing investments in mature technologies like  
1331 photovoltaics, we want to move to the next generation. And we  
1332 will work very closely with our National Renewable Energy  
1333 Laboratory out in Golden, Colorado, to develop things like  
1334 perovskites, which is a fascinating technology, and it increases

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1335 the efficiency of the solar panel itself.

1336 So I would love to have you out there. We have technologies  
1337 where literally you paint a window and the window itself becomes  
1338 a small electric generation machine or it is able to develop enough  
1339 electricity to power some small appliances. It is a fascinating  
1340 technology. It is that type of technology I would like to see  
1341 come to market much more quickly.

1342 With regard to energy efficiency, it is also important that we  
1343 balance not only the energy savings that are developed by these  
1344 types of newer technologies, but also the cost of the appliance  
1345 or the cost of the generation itself. In our view, we agree with  
1346 the energy efficiency goals that the Congress has set. We have  
1347 no disagreement there. But it doesn't do us much good to save  
1348 two dollars on the electric bill if it is going to cost us many  
1349 thousands of dollars to buy the new appliance or buy the new  
1350 generation facility. In our view, we have not done low income  
1351 families much justice in that case.

1352 So we want to balance the equation very appropriately and I would  
1353 look forward to working with you on that.

1354 Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Chairman. I yield back.

1355 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1356 the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Olson, for 5 minutes.

1357 Mr. Olson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And a big ole Texas welcome  
1358 to a friend, Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette. Dan, I am so sorry

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1359 we missed each other last week at the SPR there in Texas. I  
1360 suspect you are even more sorry because you didn't get to relive  
1361 the Gulf Coast heat of summer. No Thibodeaux or Boudreaux, no  
1362 sucking crawfish heads like you did with Mr. Tauzin, so let's  
1363 make that date again sometime in the future.

1364 I have one question for you, Dan. It is not about COVID-19.  
1365 It is about a local issue. I want to ask about the disposal of  
1366 Americium-241. It is a byproduct of weapons-grade plutonium  
1367 protection. It is used for smoke detectors and downhole oil well  
1368 logging. It is very radioactive and cancer-causing. America  
1369 stopped producing this product in 2005 despite the fact that we  
1370 still had domestic demand and so for 15 years we have been  
1371 importing this product.

1372 In 2015, my hometown of Sugar Land had a little bout with this  
1373 product, a small spill that released some Caesium-137 and  
1374 Americium-241 half a mile from my son's high school in Sugar Land,  
1375 Texas. But since this radioactive isotope came from a foreign  
1376 source, we can't store this, Dan, in the WIPP, the Waste Isolation  
1377 Pilot Plant, so there it sits, a national security risk and an  
1378 environmental risk if it spills.

1379 So I have three questions for you about this issue. Number one,  
1380 can you assess the risk of letting it sit all across the country;  
1381 number two, can the WIPP handle all this isotope we have in  
1382 America; and do you support my bill giving your Department more

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1383 authority over getting this stuff out and store it in the WIPP?  
1384 Secretary Brouillette. Mr. Olson, it is great to see you again  
1385 and I am sorry I missed you last week. It was great to be back  
1386 in my adopted home of Texas and it was pretty hot down there,  
1387 but it was fantastic to be home. I hope that we can get together  
1388 again very soon down in Texas or elsewhere.

1389 But with regard to your question on Americium, yes, I have not  
1390 reviewed your bill in detail, but if it is to provide the authority  
1391 for us to receive this Americium and store it in the WIPP, it  
1392 would be something that I think we would probably support. I  
1393 would like to take a close look at it. I am familiar with the  
1394 situation that you face down in Sugar Land and you have identified  
1395 the problem for us, is that we don't know the source of that  
1396 particular product and we are prohibited by law as a result from  
1397 accepting it into the WIPP facility in New Mexico.

1398 But perhaps through legislative changes or perhaps some other  
1399 process, we can move forward to accept that material and put it  
1400 into the WIPP facility. It is very important that we remove this  
1401 from the communities. And your community is not unique in that  
1402 sense. I mean there are many communities across Texas as well  
1403 as other parts of the United States where the sources -- it is  
1404 known as a source -- are still sitting, in some cases in strip  
1405 malls, without much security. So it is very, very important that  
1406 we remove this product and store it safely.

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1407 Mr. Olson. Can WIPP handle these products, Dan? Does it have  
1408 the capability to handle all these products or is that just --  
1409 I have heard it is overfilling. I think that is a red herring.  
1410 Can you confirm that? You got the room to store this waste?  
1411 Secretary Brouillette. I would have to double check on the room.  
1412 I am assuming we do. But we certainly have the technical  
1413 capability of storing Americium, yes.

1414 Mr. Olson. And one final question. And, Dan, this is about  
1415 the Federal Reserve's Main Street lending program. This program  
1416 is essential for mid-size people involved in oil and gas  
1417 operations. They have to have this money coming through because  
1418 they are getting hammered by COVID and this pricing war going  
1419 on between Saudi Arabia and Russia.

1420 So can you talk about how important this project is, this program  
1421 is for the suppliers of energy, the midstream guys in particular,  
1422 and how this should be open to them as well?

1423 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. I have worked closely with  
1424 Secretary Mnuchin to ensure that all of the programs that under  
1425 all of your leadership you passed and made available to American  
1426 businesses including the energy business. I have had many  
1427 conversations with the midstream producers, the independent  
1428 producers out in the Permian Basin of Texas. Some of them have  
1429 availed themselves to these programs, and I think it is important  
1430 that we continue that good work.

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1431 We are in a unique situation here with this pandemic, you know,  
1432 Texas has long experienced boom and bust cycles in the oil  
1433 business; you know how to handle that very, very well. But we  
1434 have never experienced a situation in which we had a market event  
1435 like what happened in Saudi Arabia and Russia or under the auspices  
1436 of OPEC combined with a lack of demand that was, you know,  
1437 generated by this pandemic, you know, with economies around the  
1438 world appropriately closing or slowing down. We have never seen  
1439 that before in U.S. history. We have never seen it in the oil  
1440 business so it presents a unique challenge.

1441 But I am fully supportive of what the Congress did to make these  
1442 programs available to not only all American businesses, but in  
1443 particularly the energy businesses as well.

1444 Mr. Olson. Thank you, soldier. I am a sailor. Join me in  
1445 saying, go Navy, go Army. Be there for us.

1446 Secretary Brouillette. Go Army.

1447 Mr. Olson. I yield back.

1448 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1449 the gentleman from New York, Mr. Tonko, for 5 minutes.

1450 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can you hear me?

1451 Mr. Rush. Quite well.

1452 Mr. Tonko. Well, great. Thank you.

1453 Secretary Brouillette, welcome back to the Energy and Commerce  
1454 Committee. Mr. Secretary, the administration's budget request

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1455 once again has zeroed out funding for the Weatherization  
1456 Assistance Program, a critical program that we know is there to  
1457 support the health and safety and energy efficiency of low-income  
1458 Americans as they maintain their homes.

1459 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we know more people are unemployed  
1460 and staying at home. We also know that state budgets have  
1461 realized great shortfalls. Given these conditions, do you see  
1462 some additional value in federal weatherization dollars that  
1463 could be used once the economy is reopened and retrofits can resume  
1464 safely?

1465 Secretary Brouillette. Sure, I do. And thank you for your  
1466 conversation yesterday. I appreciated the opportunity to trade  
1467 some notes on some of these important programs and I appreciate  
1468 the concern that you have about the President's budget with regard  
1469 to the weatherization program in particular.

1470 I think it is important for us to remind ourselves from time  
1471 to time though that, you know, what we do at the DOE is we look  
1472 all across the enterprise. And we just talked about energy  
1473 efficiency and that is a very important component of the  
1474 weatherization program. We have what is called cross-cutting  
1475 programs where we take money not only from EERE, but we use it,  
1476 we take money from the science labs and other places where we  
1477 can develop technologies that are ultimately put into the  
1478 marketplace that will increase efficiency. So while you may see

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1479 a reduction in the actual weatherization program, I want to assure  
1480 you that the work on energy efficiency is broad-based. It is  
1481 not just one bucket or one line item in a budget that reflects  
1482 the commitment to energy efficiency.

1483 So with regard to COVID and efficiency, we have taken some initial  
1484 steps and extended some of the grant programs until we can do  
1485 some more analysis, but, you know, to make it just more available  
1486 to people who are utilizing the program. I think what we have  
1487 done is appropriate and, you know, I would be more than happy  
1488 to come up and spend more time with you and go through the exact  
1489 steps that we have taken so far.

1490 Mr. Tonko. Okay, thank you. We are certainly going to be quite  
1491 active on behalf of our households that require the weatherization  
1492 program.

1493 I also want to focus on the role DOE can play in reducing costs  
1494 to encourage deployment of existing energy technologies. And,  
1495 for example, DOE has identified inconsistent permitting  
1496 requirements and processes as a significant cost to residential  
1497 energy installations. The patchwork of permitting requirements  
1498 across thousands of local jurisdictions causes unnecessary delays  
1499 and certainly adds administrative costs.

1500 This not only increases energy prices for our consumers but also  
1501 stifles homeowner and business investments in these technologies  
1502 such as rooftop solar. Other countries like Germany and

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1503 Australia, as we all know, have sought ways to streamline  
1504 permitting. The average cost of a residential solar installation  
1505 in Australia is less than one-half the cost in the United States.  
1506 So, Mr. Secretary, DOE and NRO have worked on reducing these  
1507 permitting costs. Do you believe DOE or another federal entity  
1508 can continue to play a role in helping to streamline the permitting  
1509 process for residential energy systems?

1510 Secretary Brouillette. Absolutely. I don't think there is any  
1511 doubt about that. I think, you know, the challenges I hear, you  
1512 know, have to do with not only solar but also offshore wind.  
1513 For instance, we have seen some challenges with permitting some  
1514 of the facilities both on the East and West Coasts. And I think  
1515 it is -- you know, look. It is very important that we have  
1516 community involvement in the permitting process and I am not  
1517 suggesting for a second that we deny individuals or communities  
1518 an opportunity to be a part of a permitting process. But we should  
1519 look very closely to see if there are certain redundancies or  
1520 certain things in the process that are not conducive or not  
1521 constructive or not allowing the process to move forward in  
1522 forthright and transparent way. And I would be open to that type  
1523 of conversation with you or your staff or anyone on the committee.  
1524 Mr. Tonko. Thank you.

1525 Finally, I believe the Advanced Manufacturing Office is an  
1526 incredible resource for our United States manufacturers to become

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1527 more competitive and sustainable. The industrial sector is  
1528 responsible for roughly one-fifth of greenhouse gas emission and  
1529 consumes roughly one-third of the primary energy here in the  
1530 United States. In recent years, Congress has taken a bigger  
1531 interest in these challenges. The Clean Industrial Technology  
1532 Act has bipartisan support and this committee's climate  
1533 legislation discussion draft has suggested creating a new  
1534 DOE-assisted secretary of industry. I know other groups have  
1535 called for reorganization of DOE to better reflect the challenges  
1536 our nation faces.

1537 Do you have any thoughts, whether through reorganization of the  
1538 Department or otherwise, on the need to give greater emphasis  
1539 and resources for DOE's manufacturing programs?

1540 Secretary Brouillette. That is an interesting idea. I would  
1541 love to take a look at your bill and talk to you more about the  
1542 organizational construct of DOE.

1543 You know, the importance of advanced manufacturing cannot be  
1544 understated, however, especially as we start to look at more of  
1545 these energy-efficient or the renewable technologies that are  
1546 coming online. I did have an opportunity to talk to  
1547 Representative Kennedy, for instance, about some of the  
1548 manufacturing processes and some other things that he would like  
1549 to bring to his congressional district.

1550 We are going to focus on the funding opportunities that we have

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1551 at the Department of Energy. We just released approximately \$44  
1552 million, give or take, over the course of the last few weeks and  
1553 it is focused almost exclusively on advanced manufacturing  
1554 techniques and capabilities. It is a very important role for  
1555 the DOE to play. Our Oak Ridge National Laboratory in particular  
1556 has been a world leader in developing 3D printing as well as other  
1557 technologies that allow advanced manufacturing to occur more  
1558 efficiently.

1559 But with regard to your bill, I will take a look at it, sir.  
1560 And if I might reserve the right to perhaps respond to you in  
1561 writing, I would more than happy to do that.

1562 Mr. Tonko. Sure. We would love to host you for a tour of what  
1563 is happening in our district. So thank you, Mr. Secretary.

1564 And, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

1565 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1566 Mr. McKinley of West Virginia for 5 minutes.

1567 Mr. McKinley. Thank you, my friend, and for having this hearing.  
1568 And welcome back, Mr. Secretary. A series of questions, if I  
1569 could. Many of them are just yes and no. Under President Obama,  
1570 chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dempsey, once said  
1571 that "improving our energy security improves our national  
1572 security." Do you agree with him?

1573 Secretary Brouillette. Yes.

1574 Mr. McKinley. If gas-fired power plants provide nearly 40

1575 percent of America's energy, do all gas-fired power plants get  
1576 their natural gas from pipelines?

1577 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, in America, pretty much.

1578 Mr. McKinley. Thank you. In America.

1579 Mr. Cohen. Yeah.

1580 Mr. McKinley. So now, and if 90 percent of our natural gas is  
1581 transported by pipelines, is it fair to say, therefore, that  
1582 pipelines are an essential part of our national security?

1583 Secretary Brouillette. Yes.

1584 Mr. McKinley. Thank you. But the environmental left doesn't  
1585 seem to agree with you and they just, they posted this headline  
1586 the other day about delay wins the day. They want a delay, and  
1587 what they are referring to are the delays that occurred over the  
1588 -- or the losses occurred was the Dakota Access Pipeline, which  
1589 was operational as you know for 3 years.

1590 Secretary Brouillette. Sure.

1591 Mr. McKinley. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline that went through  
1592 17 permits, federal government, and 16 state permits. It even  
1593 went to the Supreme Court and got approval with it. And now they  
1594 are even challenging the Mountain Valley Pipeline that is  
1595 transporting gas from West Virginia to other states.

1596 My question was, could the loss of these pipelines that we just  
1597 mentioned, could they pose a challenge to our national security?

1598 Secretary Brouillette. In my view, yes.

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1599 Mr. McKinley. Okay.

1600 Secretary Brouillette. And I think --

1601 Mr. McKinley. And it appears that some of our governors like

1602 Cuomo and Inslee may be abusing their 401 permit, their authority.

1603 Because of Cuomo, states in the Northeast -- Maine, New

1604 Hampshire, Massachusetts -- have to get their electricity from

1605 Canada and their natural gas from Russia. So whose economy is

1606 Cuomo helping? It is certainly not -- is it Putin's? It is

1607 certainly not ours.

1608 So if I could, Mr. Secretary, as you know the administration

1609 is about to finalize a new NEPA reform, significant rewrite of

1610 NEPA, and it is my understanding that nothing in the reforms get

1611 rid of any existing rules but, rather, you all have developed

1612 as something that might streamline the permitting process and

1613 primarily so that the environmental left can't weaponize the

1614 permitting process. Now let me switch gears just for a

1615 minute. The government has called on manufacturers to produce

1616 more PPE, hundreds of millions, hundreds of millions more of

1617 respirators, plastic face shields, gowns, gloves, all are going

1618 to be necessary. They are all produced from this. This is

1619 natural gas. This is resins from natural gas. Won't we need

1620 pipelines to produce more PPE?

1621 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, sir. Ultimately, we will.

1622 And to address your national security concerns at least with

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1623 regard to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, you know, it begs the  
1624 question. We have an enormous naval facility down at Norfolk  
1625 and we have an enormous Army facility in North Carolina, the home  
1626 of the 82nd Airborne. It is very important that these facilities  
1627 have ready access, reliable access to electricity because they  
1628 depend upon the private grid for the purposes of their power  
1629 generation.

1630 Mr. McKinley. Thank you. I have a couple more questions if  
1631 I can just ask quickly.

1632 Secretary Brouillette. Sure.

1633 Mr. McKinley. Wall Street as you know works on certainty. They  
1634 depend on it. And the litigation and delays created by the  
1635 environmental left have created the opposite, especially as it  
1636 relates to what happened to coal. Are we about to see the same  
1637 thing on Wall Street developing concerns about pipelines and  
1638 natural gas? Do you think there could be a threat?

1639 Secretary Brouillette. And perhaps we are. The regulatory  
1640 uncertainty will lead to certain investors to back away from these  
1641 types of projects.

1642 Mr. McKinley. So my last -- if 70 percent of our energy comes  
1643 from fossil fuels and if Wall Street stops financing gas-fired  
1644 power plants and has an aversion to funding pipelines because  
1645 they don't know whether they are going to be built or not because  
1646 of regulations, is this a positive or a negative sign for our

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1647 national security?

1648 Secretary Brouillette. In my view, it is a negative sign.

1649 Mr. McKinley. Thank you. So in the 6 seconds left, can you  
1650 explain a little bit about maybe what DOE is doing to address  
1651 the streamlining process and prevent the abuse?

1652 Secretary Brouillette. Well, through the interagency process  
1653 we are contributing to the NEPA efforts, which I understand are  
1654 going to be released very, very shortly. And to your point, they  
1655 are not to reduce in any way, shape, or form the environmental  
1656 concerns that the American people have raised. What we are simply  
1657 doing is eliminating redundancies.

1658 I will tell you really quickly in the case of DOE, I made a decision  
1659 very early that if another agency had conducted a NEPA, you know,  
1660 analysis with regard to perhaps, say, an LNG export facility,  
1661 which we have some regulatory responsibility for, that the DOE  
1662 would rely upon the other NEPA analysis. FERC is quite capable,  
1663 for instance, in conducting NEPA analyses. So if they have  
1664 already done the work once, there is no need for DOE to do a second  
1665 NEPA analysis. Eliminating that step will save, you know, an  
1666 enormous amount of money for the applicants who are looking to  
1667 build these export facilities for LNG. It is just one small  
1668 example, but it is a step in the right direction.

1669 Mr. McKinley. Thank you.

1670 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

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1671 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1672 Mr. Loeb sack for 5 minutes.

1673 Mr. Loeb sack. Thank you, Chairman Rush and Ranking Member Upton,  
1674 for holding this hearing today.

1675 And thank you, Secretary Brouillette, for testifying today as  
1676 well. As you know, the RFS is a key economic driver in my home  
1677 state of Iowa and actually throughout farm country, and the  
1678 biofuels industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1679 Of course, the pandemic only exacerbated the pain that this  
1680 industry had already been experiencing in no small measure due  
1681 to the explosion of small refinery exemptions granted by this  
1682 administration which have wiped out over four billion gallons  
1683 of biofuel from the marketplace since 2016. In January, as you  
1684 know, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals found that in order for  
1685 a small refinery to be eligible for an exemption, the law requires  
1686 that that refinery have an exemption in place to extend, meaning  
1687 that they must have received an exemption each year in order to  
1688 be eligible for a future exemption.

1689 Unfortunately, rather than adhere to the ruling of the court,  
1690 many small refineries have submitted retroactive waiver petitions  
1691 dating as far back as 2011, in an attempt to fill in the gaps  
1692 in years where they did not receive a waiver. According to EPA's  
1693 own data, by the ruling of the 10th Circuit there should be no  
1694 more than seven refineries eligible for future exemptions, and

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1695 yet EPA recently confirmed that it has received 52 so-called gap  
1696 years' small refinery petitions which, if granted, would equate  
1697 to a loss of an additional two billion dollars of biofuel demand.  
1698 So, Mr. Secretary, I have a series of questions here. I am going  
1699 to try to get through all of them and if I cut you off, I apologize,  
1700 but I want to get through as many if not all of these I possibly  
1701 can. The first question is, have those gap year petitions been  
1702 scored by DOE and sent back to EPA, and, if not, when will that  
1703 happen?

1704 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you, Mr. Loeb sack. I appreciate  
1705 the opportunity. And thanks for your conversation as well  
1706 earlier this week by telephone. You know, I will get back to  
1707 you on the 50-plus applications that, you know, may have come  
1708 from EPA. I am not quite sure where we are in the process.

1709 I will just state that, you know, there are differing legal  
1710 opinions about this 10th Circuit case. I think some are reading  
1711 it as an opportunity to file these gap applications, if you will.

1712 I will also just, you know, state for the record that if EPA  
1713 sends us the application we are required still to evaluate it,  
1714 so I am assuming that we are doing that today and I will get you  
1715 a precise answer as to where we stand in that particular process.

1716 Mr. Loeb sack. I want to ask you for your opinion. Do you believe  
1717 that the law does allow EPA to grant these gap year petitions?

1718 Secretary Brouillette. I am sorry. Say again, sir.

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1719 Mr. Loeb sack. Do you believe that the law allows EPA to grant  
1720 these gap year petitions?

1721 Secretary Brouillette. Well, that is a good question. I am  
1722 not quite certain about that. I would have to review the case  
1723 very closely and I am not an attorney so I would hate to give  
1724 you a legal opinion.

1725 Mr. Loeb sack. Yeah, because my next question has to do with  
1726 that, actually. Will DOE ensure its review of these petitions  
1727 conforms with the Court's decision?

1728 Secretary Brouillette. If I understood you correctly, would  
1729 you just say the last part of that again?

1730 Mr. Loeb sack. Yeah. Well, I will do the whole question. Will  
1731 DOE ensure its review of these petitions conforms with the Court's  
1732 decision?

1733 Secretary Brouillette. Oh, sure. We will do everything  
1734 according to the law and our understanding of the law. There  
1735 is no question about that. I will get with -- Bill Cooper is  
1736 our general counsel at the Department of Energy, and we will  
1737 ensure, you know, whatever analysis we are required to conduct  
1738 under the law and whatever we send to EPA is going to be fully  
1739 compliant with not only the 10th Circuit decision but also the  
1740 federal statute.

1741 Mr. Loeb sack. And you may or may not be able to answer this  
1742 next question, but has EPA sent you any exemption petitions from

1743 refiners who had previously submitted a petition for the exact  
1744 same year but were denied a waiver the first time around?

1745 Secretary Brouillette. I don't know the answer to that question,  
1746 but I will find out and get right back to you.

1747 Mr. Loeb sack. And do you know if DOE has changed its methodology  
1748 or approach for scoring small refinery exemption petitions?

1749 Secretary Brouillette. No, we have not. We conduct this  
1750 analysis the same way we always have and that we provide our  
1751 findings to EPA for their ultimate decision on the application.

1752 Mr. Loeb sack. Well, if it has not changed the methodology, then  
1753 doesn't it stand to reason that DOE would have no choice but to  
1754 score these do-over gap year petitions exactly the same way as  
1755 the Department did the first time?

1756 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, sir. We have not changed our  
1757 methodology. I mean we have done this in the same manner in which  
1758 we have done since the creation of the program back in 2005.

1759 Mr. Loeb sack. Okay. And other than the 52 gap year waiver  
1760 petitions, EPA reports 27 waiver petitions pending for the 2019  
1761 RFS compliance year. Has DOE completed review of those petitions  
1762 and made recommendations to EPA?

1763 Secretary Brouillette. Hm. I will get you an answer on that,  
1764 sir. I would have to check the status of those applications.

1765 Mr. Loeb sack. Okay. Yeah. Well, I look forward to the answers  
1766 and I did appreciate our conversation we had prior to this hearing.

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1767 I appreciate what you are doing at the DOE and I know you have  
1768 a lot of great history with the committee and I appreciate that.  
1769 But we have to make sure that we are doing the right thing for  
1770 these biofuels folks and we have to make sure that EPA and DOE  
1771 are complying with this 10th Circuit Court decision making, sure  
1772 that everyone is abiding by the law, and I know you agree with  
1773 that as well. So thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. And I yield  
1774 back.

1775 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1776 the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Griffith, for 5 minutes.

1777 Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, how are you this afternoon?

1778 Mr. Rush. Good, thanks.

1779 Mr. Griffith. All right.

1780 Oh, Mr. Secretary, one of my priorities as we have discussed  
1781 in the past is research parity between the renewable research  
1782 and our fossil fuel research. And as we look at the many issues  
1783 that we are discussing today, including resiliency and the  
1784 reliability of our grid as well as the global environmental  
1785 well-being, it is critical that we continue to invest in the  
1786 research and development for fossil fuels as well as renewables.  
1787 As you and I have discussed previously, of course, you know,  
1788 sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, developing nations are using their coal  
1789 supply and they are going to use their coal supply. And one of  
1790 the things I would hope that we would do is figure out how to

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1791 use that the most effectively so that we can then move forward,  
1792 not just in the United States, but globally, to reduce emissions  
1793 coming from coal-fired power plants and other fossil fuel burning  
1794 plants.

1795 Do you agree that we should strive for parity and continue to  
1796 invest in fossil research and development here in the United  
1797 States?

1798 Secretary Brouillette. There we go. Can you hear me, sir?

1799 To answer your question --

1800 Mr. Griffith. I can.

1801 Secretary Brouillette. -- yes, I do. I think we need to  
1802 continue our research and development in areas like CCUS for the  
1803 purposes of making coal not only more efficient but cleaner,  
1804 because, as you point out, developing nations will continue to  
1805 use this very important resource that they have around the world.  
1806 Our own EIA, the Energy Information Administration, projects  
1807 that the use of fossil fuels will continue at very high levels  
1808 well into the 2040s, perhaps even out as far as 2050. And if  
1809 that is the case, then I think we have an obligation to develop  
1810 the technologies that are necessary to use those fuels very  
1811 cleanly. So things like CCUS R&D work at the Department of  
1812 Energy, work related to carbon capture utilization,  
1813 sequestration, are very, very important, and I think we should  
1814 continue that work.

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1815 And if it is, you know, if it is the direction of Congress to  
1816 increase that type of work, which I would hope it would be, we  
1817 would certainly welcome that opportunity.

1818 Mr. Griffith. Well, and I appreciate that. And, of course,  
1819 I am excited about some of the things that are happening here  
1820 in my district which is a coal-producing and natural gas-producing  
1821 area.

1822 We have MOVA Technologies out of the New River Valley that is  
1823 doing some flatbed technology where they run the gases through  
1824 various substrates. And this is a very crude analogy, but they  
1825 run it through the substrates and it pulls out individual  
1826 pollutants so that you don't have an issue with, you know, a series  
1827 of things that have to be done afterwards. They can actually  
1828 be sold commercially. I also think that the chemical looping  
1829 still has great promise, and then, you know, anything that we  
1830 can do to find additional uses for coal products as we move  
1831 forward.

1832 Is there anything in particular that you have looked at that  
1833 you find to be an interesting and exciting new technology?

1834 Secretary Brouillette. Yes. Actually, I was just up in the  
1835 western part of Pennsylvania visiting a coal facility there and  
1836 I saw technologies that to me were absolutely fascinating.

1837 Going back to your first question though on the use of coal,  
1838 I want to point out that I think it is also important because

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1839 we have enormous reserves here and obviously your district is  
1840 a big part of that in the United States. The export opportunities  
1841 for coal are enormous around the world and that means jobs here  
1842 in the United States. So I would hate for us to close off that  
1843 opportunity for the use of this product because it creates so  
1844 many jobs not only in Virginia, but also West Virginia, and out  
1845 in Wyoming as well. You know, many, many states produce coal.

1846 So my point is that let's continue the clean technologies that  
1847 we need to make this product cleaner as we export it around the  
1848 world.

1849 But with regard to the new uses for coal, we are now extracting  
1850 some critical minerals. We are beginning to figure out how to  
1851 extract rare earth elements which are absolutely vital for the  
1852 development of battery technologies. So as we look at the future  
1853 and perhaps see more and more use of renewable energies and we  
1854 try and reach that holy grail of grid-scale battery storage, it  
1855 is going to be perhaps our knowledge and perhaps the research  
1856 that we do today on coal that might allow us to break some of  
1857 the supply chain restrictions and vulnerabilities that we are  
1858 currently experiencing today.

1859 China as you perhaps know, I think, from our conversations you  
1860 well know this, is that, you know, China, today, owns about 80  
1861 percent of the rare earth element market, so we are incredibly  
1862 dependent upon, as I pointed out earlier, an adversarial nation

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1863 to the United States. If we can develop these products from coal,  
1864 we have strengthened not only our energy security but our national  
1865 security as well.

1866 Mr. Griffith. And I appreciate that. And they are doing work  
1867 -- Virginia Tech is working on that as well. So there is a lot  
1868 of new technology out there and I appreciate your leadership on  
1869 those issues.

1870 And, Mr. Chairman, I see my time is up and I yield back.

1871 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1872 the gentleman from Vermont, Mr. Welch, for 5 minutes.

1873 Mr. Welch. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

1874 And thank you, Mr. Secretary. It is terrific to see you. Sorry  
1875 we are not all there with you.

1876 I wanted to ask you questions in two areas. One is the energy  
1877 and water efficiency audits, and then second, staffing levels  
1878 in the Department of Energy that are essential for us to pursue  
1879 energy efficiency. First of all, on the energy audits, my  
1880 understanding is your report shows that only 43 percent of the  
1881 federal agencies have actually completed their audits and only  
1882 six out of twenty-eight have done it fully. And as we all  
1883 know, there is immense opportunity for savings through energy  
1884 efficiency, and there is \$7.8 billion of efficiency measures that  
1885 have been identified which would result, as it is part of your  
1886 report, \$800 million in financial savings. What are the

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1887 obstacles? What is the problem with getting these energy and  
1888 water audits done? Can you speak to that?

1889 Secretary Brouillette. I am sure there are many reasons why  
1890 they are not being done, sir, but what I will do is I will go  
1891 back and I will ask for my own independent audit and get an update  
1892 for you so that I can figure out exactly why this is not getting  
1893 done in the manner of which I know you want it done and I know  
1894 the committee wants it done. We have the tremendous opportunity  
1895 here as you point out. I mean I am looking at some of the data  
1896 here in front of me, especially with regard to the federal  
1897 facilities. We are looking at roughly the savings to the  
1898 government, according to the data that I have here they are in  
1899 the billions of dollars. It is enormous.

1900 Mr. Welch. Right.

1901 Secretary Brouillette. So I think we ought to proceed at a very  
1902 aggressive rate. I will commit to you here publicly that I will  
1903 get back to you very, very shortly with an update on those audits.

1904 Mr. Welch. All right. Well, I appreciate that. And I think  
1905 there is a lot of bipartisan support on our committee for these  
1906 audits and the savings we can get. And let me just state,  
1907 candidly, my sense about the failure of this to have happened  
1908 before is that it reflects a slow walk approach towards getting  
1909 this done. So I really will appreciate you getting back to us,  
1910 but I think all of us would really appreciate getting the audits

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1911 done. So when you get back with your report, the question is  
1912 not so much why they aren't getting done, but when will they be  
1913 done. Does that sound fair?

1914 Secretary Brouillette. It sounds very fair. And I will commit  
1915 to you here that we will get you an answer within the next, I  
1916 will just say, would 10 days be appropriate for you?

1917 Mr. Welch. It would be great. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

1918 Secretary Brouillette. Okay.

1919 Mr. Welch. Also there is this question of staffing. You know,  
1920 as an example, again on energy efficiency, Mr. McKinley and I,  
1921 for years, have been working on the HOPE for HOMES Act which would  
1922 allow homeowners to do installations for energy efficiency, get  
1923 some help from the government, and it has a real benefit of putting  
1924 local contractors to work.

1925 This won't work, even if we are successful as we think we will  
1926 be in getting the money, unless there is staffing in the  
1927 appropriate departments of the Department of Energy for energy  
1928 efficiency. And our sense is that or actually our information  
1929 is that we have been very slow to fill the positions that are  
1930 available. Can you speak to that and what steps will be taken  
1931 to fully staff up, and that is in anticipation that we are actually  
1932 going to be moving forward on energy efficiency.

1933 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. Yeah, I am happy to address that.

1934 That issue was raised in another hearing. It came to my

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1935 attention very recently. And, you know, I am not happy with the  
1936 answers I received, but there were some initial delays with things  
1937 as simple as badging of employees. It would take an enormous  
1938 amount of time just to get people through the employment process  
1939 and provide them with a badge to do the work that we were attempting  
1940 to hire them to do. And as a result, you know, people have  
1941 these very specialized skills, very technical skills. In many  
1942 cases they were taking jobs, other jobs that were available to  
1943 them at the moment. We simply lost out on the competition. It  
1944 is disheartening and disappointing and we have taken steps to  
1945 address very simple measures like that. I can also get you an  
1946 update on the staffing that we have done since that hearing and  
1947 since that last conversation with Assistant Secretary Dan Simmons  
1948 who was here before the committee.

1949 Mr. Welch. Okay. Thank you very much.

1950 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1951 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
1952 the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Johnson, for 5 minutes.

1953 Mr. Johnson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1954 And, Mr. Secretary, it is good to see you this afternoon. Thanks  
1955 for taking time out of your schedule to brief us on your  
1956 Department's important activities around this COVID-19 pandemic.

1957 You know, you and your team at DOE have done some tremendously  
1958 helpful work, work that has benefited all Americans. I commend

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1959 you for your work filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to the  
1960 brim, securing the electrical grid, and as you noted in your  
1961 testimony, we are utilizing some of DOE's most advanced,  
1962 world-class laboratories and supercomputers in the fight against  
1963 COVID-19.

1964 COVID-19, there is no question, and its associated economic  
1965 challenges has put America on its heels, and our adversaries are  
1966 looking to exploit this crisis, so it is critically important  
1967 that we as members of this subcommittee don't lose focus on  
1968 maintaining our global energy leadership. My time is limited  
1969 so I want to get right into my questions. As you know very  
1970 well, Mr. Secretary, my district in eastern and southeastern Ohio  
1971 is blessed with an abundant supply of oil and gas in the Marcellus  
1972 and Utica Shales. This is an economic lifeline to my  
1973 constituents, and not only that but this cheap and abundant  
1974 resource, if it is able to be efficiently transported and brought  
1975 to market, for example, in the form of liquefied natural gas,  
1976 it enables America to project power and push back on adversaries  
1977 like Russia and Iran. As lawmakers, we need to focus on cutting  
1978 unnecessary Washington red tape and burdensome regulations.  
1979 This is why I recently introduced the Unlocking our Domestic LNG  
1980 Potential Act to do just that.

1981 So two questions in one here. Can you explain, Mr. Secretary,  
1982 in your dealings and negotiations on the global stage, why it

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1983 is so important for us to maintain a strong domestic energy sector  
1984 here at home and what benefits do Americans see from exporting  
1985 some of our excess energy resources such as LNG in the global  
1986 marketplace?

1987 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, sir. I am happy to. I will just  
1988 give you the latest example of the importance of having a very  
1989 strong and diverse energy sector here in the United States.

1990 We mentioned earlier the conversations that were occurring and,  
1991 frankly, the dispute that occurred between Saudi Arabia and Russia  
1992 just recently in the OPEC-Plus conversation. The President  
1993 directed me as soon as we saw that there was a dispute --  
1994 importantly, when we saw the reaction of one of the parties to  
1995 that dispute and the reaction was very plain, they both increased  
1996 their production and lowered the price which we feel was intended  
1997 perhaps toward Russia, but the impact was felt here in the United  
1998 States -- the President immediately engaged and said reach out  
1999 to your counterparts, work this out, figure out what is going  
2000 on. It became pretty clear in that conversation that it was not  
2001 going to get resolved at the ministerial level, my level with  
2002 my counterpart. It got elevated to a head of state level.

2003 When the President engaged, he did so with a position of strength  
2004 that was not available to Presidents, you know, when I was growing  
2005 up as a young kid in Louisiana. When we were an importing nation  
2006 not an exporting nation, we didn't have the authority, we didn't

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2007 have the positioning in the world marketplace that would have  
2008 allowed a President then to do what this President did, and that  
2009 was to bring these parties together and resolve this dispute  
2010 immediately, which brought stability to the world energy markets  
2011 and the world oil markets.

2012 It is that availability to provide leadership in a foreign policy  
2013 context that, you know, makes us understand why is it important  
2014 that we have this energy industry.

2015 Mr. Johnson. Yeah. And I agree with you a hundred percent.  
2016 And another corollary to that is commercial nuclear energy and  
2017 our commercial nuclear entrepreneurs. We have got to win that  
2018 battle with the Chinese and the Russians as well. Under  
2019 your leadership, DOE has launched a variety of new initiatives  
2020 including the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program to  
2021 accelerate the commercialization of new designs that are cheaper  
2022 and smaller with additional safety benefits. And I was proud  
2023 to reintroduce the Strengthening America Nuclear Competitiveness  
2024 Act to help streamline the export of U.S. civilian nuclear  
2025 technologies.

2026 So how does your work to formulate more bilateral nuclear  
2027 cooperation agreements, recent International Development Finance  
2028 Corporation action to repeal its limitation on nuclear deals,  
2029 and legislative Part 810 reforms that I have proposed, how does  
2030 that fit all together to position American nuclear entrepreneurs

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2031 to seize this immense global economic opportunity and why is it  
2032 important for us?

2033 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. Well, in a nutshell, sir, it is  
2034 very important for us to export U.S. nuclear technology around  
2035 the world because it comes with it as you point out certain  
2036 restrictions. Things like 123 restrictions, Section 123, it is  
2037 part of the U.S. Code that restricts the use of nuclear fuels  
2038 for the purposes of developing warheads, so a very important  
2039 nonproliferation aspect to the export of U.S. nuclear  
2040 technologies. China and Russia doesn't recognize that. They  
2041 don't have those types of restrictions. So to the extent that  
2042 countries want to buy those technologies we also accept the risk  
2043 that they may develop a warhead, so it is very, very important  
2044 to our national security that we export U.S. nuclear technology.

2045 You mentioned the other things that we are doing in our  
2046 national laboratories. We are moving forward with things like  
2047 the Advanced Test Reactor which allow us to develop not only the,  
2048 you know, the reactor technologies, but also the materials that  
2049 are needed to build these reactors and the nuclear components.

2050 If we can do that with the Advanced Test Reactor, if we can  
2051 develop, potentially under the auspices of the laws that were  
2052 passed recently, a versatile test reactor, if Congress chooses  
2053 to fund that we can test materials that make the U.S. technologies  
2054 even cheaper and more competitive on the world market.

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2055 And as we do that, again, we create economic opportunity here.  
2056 We create national security because those technologies will come  
2057 with the nonproliferation safeguards that the U.S. law requires.  
2058 Mr. Johnson. Thank you very much.  
2059 Mr. Chairman, thanks for indulging. I yield back.  
2060 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2061 Mr. Kennedy for 5 minutes.  
2062 Mr. Kennedy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2063 Mr. Secretary, good to see you and thank you for being here.  
2064 I am glad to have this opportunity to speak directly with you  
2065 about an issue that I believe this country must make a priority.  
2066 It is not going to be a surprise to anybody in this committee  
2067 -- offshore wind development. As members of the committee well  
2068 know this has been a priority of mine since I first arrived in  
2069 Congress. I have had the opportunity to discuss this issue with  
2070 a few of your predecessors, Mr. Secretary, and I look forward  
2071 to this conversation as well. The research, development  
2072 and, critically, the deployment of offshore wind in the United  
2073 States holds immense promise. From the clear climate benefits  
2074 of utilizing an abundant, renewable natural resource, the  
2075 economic impact on ratepayers to the benefits are undeniable.  
2076 In New England, and in Massachusetts in particular, we pay  
2077 amongst the highest retail electric rates in the lower 48 states.  
2078 Taking advantage of a renewable natural resource that we have

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2079 right off the coast makes perfect sense.

2080 In March of 2020 -- oh, excuse me. But beyond the climate and  
2081 economic benefits, the promise of offshore wind is the growth  
2082 and incubation of an entire new industry. It includes direct  
2083 and indirect jobs, many of which will require high-skilled,  
2084 American, union labor and to realize its immense potential.

2085 In March of 2020, the American Wind Energy Association released  
2086 its U.S. Offshore Wind Power Economic Impact Assessment. Among  
2087 the findings we estimated that, quote, developing 30,000  
2088 megawatts of offshore wind along the East Coast could support  
2089 up to 83,000 jobs and deliver 25 billion in economic output by  
2090 2030. And that is just the potential on the East Coast.

2091 As you know, the federal government is currently evaluating  
2092 proposals off the coast of Massachusetts. So my first question,  
2093 Mr. Secretary, is how is DOE coordinating with other federal  
2094 agencies, including the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, to  
2095 address the jurisdictional issues surrounding offshore wind?

2096 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you, sir, and I appreciated the  
2097 opportunity as well to catch up with you by telephone over the  
2098 weekend. I enjoyed our conversation and I look forward to working  
2099 with you.

2100 You know, we work closely with EPA, the Department of Interior  
2101 in certain cases if it is dealing with offshore wind, to ensure  
2102 that the permitting processes are streamlined. We mentioned

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2103 earlier our need for efforts and other things that we are working  
2104 on. We are going to continue that effort because we do recognize  
2105 that, you know, the provision of wind energy, the provision of  
2106 solar energy, the provision of nuclear energy, the provision of,  
2107 you know, other forms of energy, hydro, are key to our energy  
2108 diversity here in the United States.

2109 And as we talked about earlier, with regard to national security  
2110 it is that diversity that allows us the strength that we need  
2111 in America to continue growing the economy at the pace in which  
2112 we are going to grow it. I am very supportive of your efforts  
2113 there locally. I am happy to help you in any way that I might  
2114 be able to.

2115 Mr. Kennedy. I appreciate that, sir.

2116 So building off that, I want to get a sense of what DOE is doing  
2117 to ensure that offshore wind not only connects to the grid, but  
2118 then get that grid to power of load center given the permitting  
2119 issues that you have discussed.

2120 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. We need to continue to develop  
2121 infrastructure here in the United States, transmission  
2122 infrastructure, distribution infrastructures so that we can get  
2123 the power where it needs to be.

2124 You know, we have unique challenges here in the United States  
2125 with the provision of renewable energy. If you think about it,  
2126 it becomes very logical. There is lots of sunshine in places

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2127 like Arizona and New Mexico and the southwest part of the country.  
2128 Getting that electrical power to perhaps Chicago or high-density  
2129 areas in the United States can be a bit of a challenge.  
2130 And, you know, while we are very sensitive to the ability of  
2131 local communities and states to be a part of the regulatory process  
2132 or the permitting process, I should say, it is also important  
2133 that we find a path forward to develop the infrastructure that  
2134 we need to move the power from where it is generated to where  
2135 it needs to be. And it is an ongoing effort not only at the  
2136 Department of Energy, but the EPA, Department of Interior, other  
2137 bodies, state and local institutions as well. And it has been  
2138 a very robust conversation and I look forward to being an even  
2139 larger part of it.  
2140 Mr. Kennedy. And, Mr. Secretary, just because my time is running  
2141 a bit short here, I wanted to flag that you and I had discussed  
2142 previously about taking advantage of the potential of offshore  
2143 wind development in the Northeast and the economic impact that  
2144 this would have along these coasts and in particularly  
2145 southeastern Massachusetts.  
2146 About a Center of Excellence on Offshore Wind, I had sent a letter  
2147 to the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable  
2148 Energy a few weeks ago and would love to get a response and keep  
2149 in contact with your agency to figure out what we can do to make  
2150 that come about.

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2151 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. I will certainly follow up with  
2152 Dan Simmons and get you some additional information. But I  
2153 would also like to get together with you, and I would also, if  
2154 I might, sir, take this opportunity to invite you to our National  
2155 Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. I think you  
2156 would be pleased with that particular Center of Excellence. That  
2157 is one of its focal points.

2158 Mr. Kennedy. I look forward to it, sir. Thanks very much, Mr.  
2159 Secretary.

2160 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2161 Mr. Bucshon from Indiana for 5 minutes.

2162 Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2163 And thank you, Secretary. I would like to focus on grid  
2164 reliability and resilience. Some of this has already been  
2165 discussed, but, you know, the COVID-19 impact has made it even  
2166 more front and center. And as you know, a key principle to a  
2167 resilient grid is the need for diverse fuel and generation supply  
2168 for the electrical sector. And I am a supporter of the  
2169 all-of-the-above energy approach and I believe each fuel mix plays  
2170 a key role in our grid especially during a public health emergency.  
2171 However, it is important that we don't forget the critical role  
2172 baseload energy such as coal and natural gas play to our grid  
2173 reliability. And it is more important than ever that our grid  
2174 has a reliable backbone to make sure the lights always stay on

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2175 and our frontline workers have the electricity they need.

2176 I want to applaud the DOE at remaining committed to clean coal  
2177 in our energy mix, as you have discussed earlier during the  
2178 hearing, and by you recently announcing the Coal FIRST Initiative  
2179 which will work to make coal plants flexible, innovative,  
2180 resilient, small, and transformative with the goal of one day  
2181 having these plants be emission-free. In Southwest Indiana that  
2182 I represent, we have all the coal in the state of Indiana. Our  
2183 state at one point had about 85 percent of its power from coal.

2184 It is now quite a bit less, but still substantial based on our  
2185 expansion of renewable energy sources.

2186 But a couple of things, questions I have. Can you explain maybe  
2187 what, if any, lessons you learned and continuing to learn during  
2188 the COVID-19 pandemic that can help ensure our grid remains  
2189 reliable and resilient?

2190 Secretary Brouillette. Sure, I am happy to do that. I mean,  
2191 you know, it is the most, I think, striking example, obvious  
2192 example is the importance of electricity to everything we do.

2193 I mean if we take a step back and just imagine for a moment the  
2194 horror that would result from a loss of power in, say, New York  
2195 City or one of our major cities where the pandemic was particularly  
2196 acute at least in the early stages, the loss of power there would  
2197 just be devastating.

2198 Our ability to replace the power is somewhat limited. I mean

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2199 some of these folks have backup generators and what not, but those  
2200 are very short in nature. So just the importance of the  
2201 electricity grid is just, you know, first and foremost. And it  
2202 forced us to recognize, you know, as I mentioned to Mr. Kennedy  
2203 and others, the need for additional infrastructure here in the  
2204 United States, the additional emphasis that we placed on  
2205 cybersecurity throughout this pandemic because if you were an  
2206 adversary you would look at this as potentially an opportunity  
2207 to do some damage to the grid and to the American economy, so  
2208 our vigilance has been raised as a result of this pandemic.

2209 Sir, to your question about clean coal and the announcements  
2210 that we made with Coal FIRST, I think that is a fascinating program  
2211 at the Department of Energy. It is designed to bring the next  
2212 generation of coal generation to market. The facilities that  
2213 we are looking at are smaller. They are much more efficient.

2214 And, importantly, when they are combined with things like biomass  
2215 and the technologies that are available to us in the Coal FIRST,  
2216 actually have the ability to have a net negative carbon emissions  
2217 footprint. So it is a fascinating technology that we want  
2218 to continue to work on and develop and potentially see moving  
2219 to the private sector at some point in the future. So thank you  
2220 for your interest in the program and I look forward to keeping  
2221 you updated on it.

2222 Mr. Bucshon. Well, thank you. And again, thanks to the what

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2223 the Department of Energy is doing in the research realm. And  
2224 I want to reiterate what other members have said and I think you  
2225 have said during this hearing is that it is important that we  
2226 don't limit ourselves to research and development in only one  
2227 area of energy generation.

2228 And I think, you know, there is a push right now to forget about  
2229 coal, forget about natural gas and other fossil fuels, whereas,  
2230 with innovative research and development this can be a substantial  
2231 contributor as far as our lifetimes and probably into the future  
2232 and also be a major contributor to making sure that we have a  
2233 more reliable and resilient grid that will help protect us as  
2234 you mentioned on the national security front, but more importantly  
2235 improve the lives of the citizens that we represent.

2236 So thanks for your work and continue the good work you are doing  
2237 more broadly across the energy space and I hope the Congress  
2238 continues to support that.

2239 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2240 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2241 the gentlelady from New Hampshire, Ms. Kuster, for 5 minutes.

2242 Ms. Kuster. Great. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

2243 Sorry, I am having a little difficulty with my computer. Just  
2244 trying to get to my remarks. Oh, well.

2245 I wanted to ask a question today about the responding to COVID-19  
2246 and the economic recovery from COVID-19. And thank you, Mr.

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2247 Secretary, for being with us. It is important for Americans to  
2248 see that their government is doing everything in their power to  
2249 help keep them safe, and I know from our discussion yesterday  
2250 that you, the Department of Energy, has been helpful in combating  
2251 COVID-19 directly. And I think my constituents would be pleased  
2252 to hear how the Department of Energy is leveraging the full range  
2253 of its facilities in the fight against this terrible disease that  
2254 has been so disruptive in our country.

2255 So how are researchers at the Department of Energy using the  
2256 massive computing power at their disposal to help us understand  
2257 COVID-19 and explore potential treatments and how might this  
2258 research help us get this pandemic under control?

2259 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. I am happy to address that. The  
2260 national laboratories have been front and center on some of the  
2261 early findings with regard to COVID. So, for instance, at Argonne  
2262 National Laboratory they use very high powered light beams and  
2263 light sources and x-ray technologies, and what they are able to  
2264 do is identify certain protein strains that would further lead  
2265 to potential drug compounds that would have positive impacts on  
2266 this particular virus, this COVID-19.

2267 They were able to do that because of the supercomputing capacities  
2268 at Argonne and Oak Ridge and some other national laboratories  
2269 in very, very short amounts of time. So, you know, the very,  
2270 you know, practical or, you know, for myself, a layman's way of

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2271 understanding it, rather than taking a year or two to go through  
2272 perhaps billions of pages of academic research to find the most  
2273 relevant articles, they could do that in a day or perhaps two  
2274 days by using the speed of the computers to sift through it.

2275 The same thing with drug compounds, they were able to look through  
2276 several thousand, perhaps even more, drug compounds to find the  
2277 first 70 or 77 or so that they could identify as having a potential  
2278 positive impact on this virus. So it is using that ability that  
2279 allowed the CDC, allowed the researchers and the doctors at HHS  
2280 and other interagency partners to make those key first decisions  
2281 and potentially limit the impact of this pandemic.

2282 Ms. Kuster. So I want to direct my comments to the disruption  
2283 that has been caused by COVID-19. You and I discussed yesterday  
2284 the opportunity to build back better than before and I would love  
2285 to hear your thoughts on the dramatic advancements that have been  
2286 made in increasing solar and wind energy production and how we  
2287 can envision a rule for renewable energy that will place our  
2288 economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and keep us moving  
2289 forward so that we can not only rebuild our economy, but come  
2290 back stronger with jobs here in America.

2291 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you for the conversation  
2292 yesterday. I really enjoyed that.

2293 You know, with regard to the future of some of these renewable  
2294 technologies, I do think we have an opportunity in America not

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2295 only as a result of the pandemic, but I think just as a result  
2296 of the changing consumer desires to develop some advanced  
2297 technologies. For instance, you know, the solar world in which  
2298 we had discussed yesterday and I may have mentioned in the earlier  
2299 part of this hearing, you know, we at the DOE, we look at  
2300 photovoltaics as somewhat antiquated. It is a very mature  
2301 technology. If you want a solar panel you can usually get one  
2302 in America. You can usually get it installed on your house very,  
2303 very quickly. I know that there has been some slowdown as a result  
2304 of the pandemic, but nonetheless the technology is available to  
2305 most U.S. consumers or world consumers.

2306 What we are looking at is the next generation of solar technology,  
2307 the use of perovskites, the use of other materials that perhaps  
2308 are organic here in the United States or around the world, or  
2309 they may be manmade technologies or manmade materials that we  
2310 use to make the next generation of solar panels. If we can unlock  
2311 that, if we can move forward with that type of technology and,  
2312 more importantly, get it to the marketplace through either our  
2313 Office of Technology Transitions or other methodologies to get  
2314 it to the marketplace, then we have an enormous economic  
2315 opportunity ahead of us.

2316 And, you know, with regard to our support here at the DOE, we  
2317 support all forms of energy. We will continue to do so because  
2318 as I mentioned earlier, we feel very strongly that adds not only

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2319 to our economic and energy security, but our national security  
2320 as well.

2321 Ms. Kuster. Thank you very much. My time is up. I did have  
2322 a question on negative emission technology and direct air capture,  
2323 but I will submit that for the record. Thank you. And I yield  
2324 back.

2325 Mr. Rush. The gentlelady yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2326 the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Flores, for 5 minutes.

2327 Mr. Flores, please unmute your microphone.

2328 Mr. Flores. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Secretary Brouillette.

2329 It is great to have you testifying again to us today. I just  
2330 wanted to let you know it is a hundred degrees here in my part  
2331 of Texas and my solar system is producing 100 percent of my energy  
2332 needs. So I am doing my part for the grid and also for the  
2333 emissions of the country.

2334 Mr. Secretary, as you know we have talked quite a bit today about  
2335 maintaining national security and maintaining U.S. energy  
2336 dominance and that those are key inputs for continued economic  
2337 opportunity for hardworking Americans. And as you pointed out  
2338 in one of your earlier responses, we need to aggressively support  
2339 innovation and private sector partnerships, particularly when  
2340 it comes to the use and development of advanced nuclear reactors  
2341 to regain our global leadership role when it comes to nuclear  
2342 energy.

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2343 You also mentioned the critical need to make sure that high assay,  
2344 low enriched uranium or HALEU, as we all call it, is available  
2345 in sufficient quantities. You did say earlier that the  
2346 Department of Energy is working on trying to make this fuel source  
2347 available. Can you give us a little bit more detail, a little  
2348 bit more substance about what the Energy Department is doing so  
2349 that we can regain that leadership role in the nuclear space?  
2350 And then also if you think there is additional legislative support  
2351 that is needed, let us have -- share that information as well.

2352 Thank you.

2353 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you, Mr. Flores. Keep that a/c  
2354 on. It gets really hot. It gets really hot down there. It was  
2355 great to be in Texas last week. I am sorry I missed you.

2356 With regard to the HALEU project that you are talking about,  
2357 what we have instituted is a pilot project. We are going to do  
2358 the supports with Ohio where we had an existing facility so we  
2359 didn't need to construct new facilities to do this. Our intent  
2360 is to spend about \$115 million that was appropriated by the U.S.  
2361 Congress to take some centrifuges that we had down in Oak Ridge,  
2362 move them to Ohio, and create this high assay LEU which is enriched  
2363 to a range somewhere around 19 percent.

2364 We hope that this will catalyze -- and that project is underway.

2365 The casings have moved to Ohio. We have some additional  
2366 construction to do inside of the facility, but we hope to have

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2367 this completed by sometime midpoint next year, perhaps at the  
2368 end of next year, and begin producing in limited quantities this  
2369 particular fuel source. We are also at the same time using our  
2370 Idaho National Laboratory to move forward with some research and  
2371 development and potentially some more aggressive work, actually  
2372 deployment of a small modular reactor which doesn't use this type  
2373 of fuel, but is nonetheless a newer technology that we would like  
2374 to see come to market soon.

2375 With regard to the HALEU fuel that I mentioned earlier, what  
2376 we will use that for is an advanced or a micro reactor and INL  
2377 is at the tip of the spear force in the development of that  
2378 technology as well, so we are going to work closely with them.

2379 We are going to work closely with the U.S. Department of Defense  
2380 who has indicated an interest in the small nuclear reactors for  
2381 perhaps some deployment to remote locations where radar stations  
2382 are, you know, located around the world and, quite candidly, they  
2383 don't have access to energy sources as we do in the lower 48  
2384 perhaps. I am thinking about Alaska, places like the Aleutian  
2385 Islands.

2386 So we are moving very aggressively to move this technology out  
2387 to the marketplace.

2388 Mr. Flores. Okay, very good. And as you know, my HALEU bill  
2389 has passed the House not only in the last Congress but also in  
2390 this Congress and it helps give you the statutory authority you

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2391 need for the development and transportation of this fuel and by  
2392 setting public-private partnerships. We are hoping the Senate  
2393 will act soon. What other legislative support do you need to  
2394 help us regain our dominance in this area?

2395 Secretary Brouillette. Well, that bill is very important, so  
2396 thank you for your leadership there and thank you for your support  
2397 of both the technology as well as the program within DOE. I look  
2398 forward to supporting that all throughout the process.

2399 With regard to other legislative authorities, at this point in  
2400 time I don't have anything for you in terms of a specific need,  
2401 but I am happy to discuss this with you further and look through  
2402 our legal authorities and see if there might be anything that  
2403 might present a roadblock to us in the future for the development  
2404 of this type of fuel or the advanced nuclear technologies that  
2405 we just discussed.

2406 Mr. Flores. Okay. And thank you for your testimony and thank  
2407 you for your answers to my questions. And let me know when INL  
2408 is opened up for congressional visitors again because that is  
2409 on my wish list of places to visit. Thank you.

2410 Secretary Brouillette. Love to have you. We would love to have  
2411 you.

2412 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2413 the gentlelady from Illinois, Ms. Kelly, for 5 minutes.

2414 Ms. Kelly. Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. Thank you for

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2415 convening us.

2416 And thank you, Mr. Secretary, for spending part of your day with  
2417 us. I wanted to ask you about the Department of Energy  
2418 envisioning creating jobs through modernization and all kind of  
2419 jobs whether you have a high school diploma or you have your  
2420 masters. What are you thinking about that?

2421 Secretary Brouillette. What am I thinking about in terms of  
2422 the economic development or the --

2423 Ms. Kelly. What will be opportunities?

2424 Secretary Brouillette. I am sorry. I didn't quite get that.

2425 I apologize.

2426 Ms. Kelly. No, that is okay. How is DOE envisioning creating  
2427 jobs through the grid modernization, whether it is you just have  
2428 a high school diploma or you have a master's degree, what type  
2429 of jobs will be available?

2430 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. Yeah, I am sorry. I couldn't  
2431 quite catch the first part of your question.

2432 You know, at the DOE what we are very interested in doing is  
2433 creating opportunities not only for scientists, you know, the  
2434 vast bulk of the population and the workforce at DOE including  
2435 our contractor base, are, you know, PhD-level scientists. They  
2436 are nuclear engineers, nuclear physicists, other types of  
2437 scientists throughout our laboratory system. What we need  
2438 to do though is perhaps be more aggressive in developing the

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2439 pipeline for that sort of talent. And what we are now focused  
2440 on is development of programs, internships, fellowships, that  
2441 would be used by even high school seniors, or high school juniors  
2442 in some cases, to come and spend a summer with us, come and spend  
2443 a few weeks with us and let us show you what it is that we do.

2444 And through that process perhaps generate some interest in STEM  
2445 education curriculums that perhaps would lead to these students  
2446 coming back to us as perhaps post-docs 10 years later.

2447 So we are very aggressively pursuing that. We are also looking  
2448 for opportunities to partner with private industry as well because  
2449 we don't pretend to have a monopoly on the development of talent  
2450 here in America at the Department of Energy, although I think  
2451 we do a pretty good job of it. We do want to partner with our  
2452 colleagues in private industry and work with them to develop STEM  
2453 curricula in certain cases and, importantly, just develop the  
2454 opportunity for students to come in at a very early age and see  
2455 what it is we do.

2456 Ms. Kelly. That is wonderful. And I hope when you are thinking  
2457 of that, that you think about a diverse pipeline also.

2458 Then I wanted to move to empty buildings and working with our  
2459 cities and towns to think about reconfiguration of existing  
2460 buildings so they are healthier, they incorporate more touchless  
2461 techs, create better air ventilation and spacing. So what do  
2462 you recommend to cities and towns to, I guess, just to have

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2463 healthier buildings, more green buildings?

2464 Secretary Brouillette. As we discussed earlier, I mean focusing  
2465 on efficiency, focusing on the programs that we have, you know,  
2466 we have the federal energy program, FEMP as it is known, for  
2467 federal buildings, but focusing on energy efficiency and what  
2468 we might do to improve the efficiency of some of these buildings  
2469 is clearly important.

2470 But I might add that, you know, this is going to be a much larger  
2471 issue for us perhaps in the next few months or perhaps years as  
2472 we, you know, address the changes in society as a result of this  
2473 pandemic. I have talked to several colleagues in private  
2474 industry who have already indicated to me that perhaps telework  
2475 may be the future for many of the employees at their respective  
2476 companies. If that is the case, we are going to have some  
2477 additional space available in these buildings all around,  
2478 including in the small communities that you mentioned earlier.  
2479 Ms. Kelly. If you, I don't know if you know the answer, but  
2480 if you were to give, I know there is not one grade of A through  
2481 F, but how do you feel like our towns and cities are doing as  
2482 far as greener, cleaner, more technically sound buildings? Do  
2483 you feel like we have lots and lots of work to do or we are halfway  
2484 there?

2485 Secretary Brouillette. I don't know with regard to specific  
2486 buildings or towns. I couldn't provide that kind of grade. I

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2487 will provide a pretty high grade though for the development of  
2488 the technologies that are leading us to more efficient use of  
2489 energy all across the country.

2490 What private industry is doing, I think is absolutely remarkable.

2491 As we mentioned earlier in this hearing, what our scientists  
2492 are doing at our national laboratories, the development of new  
2493 solar technologies, the development of new technologies that  
2494 allow us to capture carbon in certain instances, not only from  
2495 fuels like coal but perhaps even natural gas and others, I give  
2496 them very, very high marks for the work that is being done there.

2497 Ms. Kelly. Well, thank you. Thank you for your work and thank  
2498 you for joining us and I yield back.

2499 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you.

2500 Mr. Rush. The gentlelady yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2501 the gentlelady from California, Ms. Barragan, for 5 minutes.

2502 I am sorry.

2503 Ms. Barragan. Mr. Chairman, am I up?

2504 Mr. Rush. I am sorry, no. The chair recognizes Mr. Hudson for  
2505 five minutes. Mr. Hudson?

2506 Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2507 Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for being here with us today. I also  
2508 just wanted to thank you and President Trump for your incredible  
2509 leadership on behalf of our energy sector during this most trying  
2510 time for our country.

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2511 As you know, I represent the amazing men and women of Fort Bragg  
2512 in North Carolina. These include the nation's immediate response  
2513 force, the 82nd Airborne, our Army Special Forces, and other  
2514 critical military components. As we face threats around the  
2515 globe, it is of paramount importance our bases at home and our  
2516 foreign and remote operating bases have the sustainable energy  
2517 supply they need to keep us safe. You and President Trump have  
2518 made this a priority and for that I am very grateful.

2519 As this committee and your Department develop new energy  
2520 technologies to adequately supply our armed forces, I believe  
2521 the future of our defense energy supply and our focus should reside  
2522 with small modular and advanced nuclear reactors. In fact, back  
2523 in 2018, I added an amendment to the National Defense  
2524 Authorization Act that requires the Department of Energy and the  
2525 Department of Defense to develop guidelines for a pilot program  
2526 for the development of micro reactors at critical DOE and DOD  
2527 sites.

2528 I am very interested in this report's recommendations for our  
2529 forward operating bases and for increasing energy resilience at  
2530 bases like Fort Bragg. But, unfortunately, the report is still  
2531 at OMB, so I would appreciate anything you can do to assist me  
2532 in getting this report finalized so we can move it forward.

2533 Just to get to my questions, build a little bit on what Mr. Flores  
2534 was asking you about, there was a recent report from the Nuclear

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2535 Fuel Working Group which outlined how America could reestablish  
2536 itself as a global leader in nuclear technologies. This report  
2537 supported next generation nuclear reactors. Can you comment on  
2538 this report and some of your work on small modular and advanced  
2539 nuclear reactors?

2540 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. I am happy to do that, sir, and  
2541 thank you as well for the conversation that we had recently on  
2542 the telephone. I appreciated learning more about your  
2543 congressional district, and I might also -- I am a little bit  
2544 envious of your representation of Fort Bragg. As a former Army  
2545 tank commander and drill sergeant, I spent a little time down  
2546 in North Carolina and I miss my days there. So thank you for  
2547 your service and thank you for your representation of that  
2548 important Army installation.

2549 With regard to your question about the Nuclear Fuels Working  
2550 Group, what we had discussed earlier, I think, is very important  
2551 for the future of nuclear energy not only here in the United States  
2552 but around the world. As I mentioned in one of the earlier  
2553 questions, we have lost our leadership in America on nuclear  
2554 power. We are losing it very quickly to places like China and  
2555 Russia. In the case of China, they are using technologies that  
2556 I think can be fairly characterized as American technology.  
2557 Westinghouse is perhaps the world's leader in the development  
2558 of advanced nuclear technologies. They created a reactor. It

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2559 is called the AP1000. It is a fantastic product. China  
2560 developed a reactor that looks awfully similar and we are seeing  
2561 them deploy that around the world. And, importantly, as I  
2562 mentioned earlier, they deployed around the world without the  
2563 safeguards, without the nonproliferation safeguards that we as  
2564 Americans feel is very, very important. To the extent that we  
2565 don't focus on that we only increase our defense needs around  
2566 the world. You know, if we allow rogue nations to develop  
2567 this technology and from that develop warhead programs, we only  
2568 increase our need for a strong defense here in the United States.

2569 So it is very, very important that we connect these things  
2570 together in a way that allows us to move forward and perhaps regain  
2571 our leadership in this nuclear area. The Working Group is the  
2572 first step of that. We have many steps to go. But we do feel  
2573 it is a very credible strategy that lays out a road map for America  
2574 to retain, or regain our leadership in this case in the nuclear  
2575 space.

2576 Mr. Hudson. Well, I agree with you and I think that work is  
2577 very important and I appreciate your leadership. But as you know,  
2578 in order to effectively run an advanced reactor, you must have  
2579 the necessary fuel. This committee has done work on advanced  
2580 fuels, Mr. Flores and Mr. McNerney, and as Mr. Flores mentioned  
2581 right before me, on high assay, low enriched uranium fuels. Can  
2582 you talk about what DOE is doing to help with accident-tolerant

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2583 fuels which are critical for existing and for these advanced  
2584 reactors?

2585 Secretary Brouillette. Sure, absolutely. The  
2586 accident-tolerant fuels are absolutely necessary, in my view,  
2587 not only for the development of the advanced reactors and the  
2588 smaller reactors that we talked about earlier, it is important  
2589 as well for changing the public perception about nuclear power  
2590 in the first instance.

2591 We are still dealing with the overhang in America of things like  
2592 Three-Mile Island. We obviously are dealing with the overhang  
2593 of international events like Chernobyl and Fukushima. We all  
2594 know about those horrible accidents. If we can develop a fuel  
2595 that allows us to develop a technology that in certain cases you  
2596 can turn the cooling off to the reactor and nothing happens, it  
2597 simply shuts down, it is completely accident-tolerant, that is  
2598 important to changing that public perception and perhaps will  
2599 increase public acceptance of this important energy source.

2600 As I mentioned earlier as well, it is important that we have  
2601 all forms of energy, but nuclear in particular because it provides  
2602 such an important baseload component to our electric grid here  
2603 in the United States. And until we have the battery technologies  
2604 that we are all working on, then there is no physical possible  
2605 way for us to move to a one hundred percent renewable world, if  
2606 that is what some are pursuing. We can't do it today without

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2607 baseload electricity, and nuclear energy is just such an important  
2608 component of that.

2609 Mr. Hudson. Great. Well, thank you, sir. I appreciate it and  
2610 look forward to continuing these discussions.

2611 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2612 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2613 the gentlelady from California, Ms. Barragan, for 5 minutes.

2614 Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2615 And thank you, Mr. Secretary, for joining us. My first question  
2616 is, over 620,000 clean energy workers have lost their jobs since  
2617 the start of the pandemic including over 100,000 in California.

2618 You were vocal in your testimony about supporting the fossil  
2619 fuel industry. Can you tell me what you are doing to help the  
2620 clean energy industry rebound? And if you could try to do  
2621 that in 60 seconds, I have a number of questions I am trying to  
2622 get to, Mr. Secretary.

2623 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, ma'am. I am happy to do that.

2624 Yes, I have been very vocal in my support for the energy industry,  
2625 but all forms of energy. The pandemic has hit all sectors of  
2626 the U.S. economy. I don't know if it has been an equal  
2627 distribution, but the pain has been felt all across the United  
2628 States. And I am supportive of, you know, the programs that you  
2629 and your leadership in Congress, others in Congress, have done  
2630 in the last 2 perhaps 3 months in passing programs like the CARES

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2631 Act, other steps that you have taken to stabilize the U.S. economy  
2632 as we deal with this pandemic.

2633 I want to ensure that --

2634 Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. If I could just  
2635 interrupt you, I am trying to get to the questions. Is there  
2636 anything specifically you can tell me about what you are going  
2637 to do to help the clean energy industry rebound, anything  
2638 specifically you might be able to mention?

2639 Secretary Brouillette. Well, I think, you know, under the energy  
2640 efficiency program at the Department of Energy we are going to  
2641 continue to invest through our funding opportunity processes.

2642 We have released, I think, in the last 2 or 3 months we have  
2643 announced that we have about \$220 million in funding opportunities  
2644 that are coming exclusively out of the clean energy space in our  
2645 energy efficiency programs. We are going to continue to make  
2646 those available to the private sector and make those available  
2647 so that they can move forward with some of the newer technologies  
2648 that they want to bring to market and hopefully that will add  
2649 some economic assistance to their businesses as well.

2650 Ms. Barragan. Okay, thank you, sir.

2651 It was reported in April that your agency is holding back \$43  
2652 billion in loan guarantees earmarked by Congress for clean energy  
2653 projects. Why withhold support for the clean energy projects?

2654 Secretary Brouillette. Well it is -- I would disagree slightly

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2655 with the characterization. It is a loan program that is available  
2656 within the Department of Energy, but it is not available  
2657 exclusively to clean energy so we are not withholding that money  
2658 from the clean energy industry. What I have done is undertake  
2659 a review of the loan program, because coming from the banking  
2660 industry I was a little concerned about some of the requirements  
2661 that were being put in place that might prevent loans from being  
2662 made.

2663 That review is still in process and I hope to complete it very,  
2664 very shortly and at some point in the future we will move forward  
2665 with this lending program.

2666 Ms. Barragan. Well, I hope you will work as quickly for the  
2667 clean energy projects and sector as you have been for the fossil  
2668 fuel industry, sir. I happen to represent a district that is  
2669 almost 90 percent Latino/African American. They are surrounded  
2670 by three freeways, the port, and urban oil drilling.

2671 Mr. Secretary, what is environmental injustice or environmental  
2672 justice mean to you?

2673 Secretary Brouillette. It means the availability of energy to  
2674 all sectors of our nation and all communities in our nation.

2675 My commitment to environmental justice is very broad. We talked  
2676 a lot today about energy efficiency and making energy cheaper.

2677 I think that is very important for us to do. That is part of  
2678 this program.

2679 And it is my commitment to you, it is my commitment to this  
2680 Congress to pursue those types of technologies that allow the  
2681 distribution of energy very, very efficiently in America and,  
2682 importantly, very cheaply in America.

2683 Ms. Barragan. Well, sir, much like your predecessor, when asked  
2684 this question you were talking about consumer pricing. But let  
2685 me just tell you, environmental injustice is when there is a  
2686 disproportionate impact to our communities of color, our black  
2687 and brown communities that are suffering a much higher rate of  
2688 air pollution.

2689 And so when you talk about rolling back air standards, when you  
2690 talk about making it easier for the fossil fuel industry, you  
2691 are talking about harming the health of our communities of color.

2692 And then COVID hits, and guess what? They are dying at higher  
2693 rates because they have higher asthma and they are more exposed  
2694 to this air pollution. And so it is very challenging. If you  
2695 haven't noticed, there are protesters all across this country  
2696 right now demanding justice and that includes environmental  
2697 justice. And so I would ask you to take a very serious look at  
2698 efforts that you can take to help fix this huge problem that we  
2699 have.

2700 Do you believe in environmental racism?

2701 Secretary Brouillette. Well, I understand your concern and I  
2702 think we happen to agree on the need for cleaner technologies

2703 going into the marketplace. But I would add that, you know, what  
2704 is important is that we not only have the development of the  
2705 technologies so that we can --

2706 Ms. Barragan. Mr. Secretary, the question was whether you  
2707 believe in environmental racism.

2708 Secretary Brouillette. I am not sure what you mean by that.

2709 Ms. Barragan. Do you, yes or no?

2710 Secretary Brouillette. I don't know what you mean by that.

2711 Ms. Barragan. Well, it is a term to describe environmental  
2712 injustices that occur across our country to certain communities  
2713 including black and brown communities that are disproportionately  
2714 impacted.

2715 Secretary Brouillette. I believe that there are communities  
2716 that are perhaps disproportionately impacted, I just don't  
2717 understand what you mean by the term "environmental racism."

2718 Ms. Barragan. Okay. Well, I can certainly follow up with you  
2719 and we should have this conversation because it goes hand in hand  
2720 about what is happening across this country and why our  
2721 communities of color are disproportionately impacted.

2722 And, sir, I know my time has expired but I will welcome that  
2723 conversation.

2724 Mr. Rush. The lady yields back.

2725 Ms. Barragan. And with that I yield back.

2726 Mr. Rush. The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Michigan,

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2727 Mr. Walberg, for 5 minutes.

2728 Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2729 And thank you, Mr. Secretary, for being here, and I think it  
2730 is very apparent that you have reached out. Like the  
2731 administration does, you have reached out to talk to us, members  
2732 of this committee and subcommittee and on both sides of the aisle,  
2733 and I appreciate that openness to hear our concerns, our ideas,  
2734 and get to know us a little better as well.

2735 Secretary Brouillette. This committee, you have trained it very  
2736 well.

2737 Mr. Walberg. Well, I appreciate the fact that you will be coming  
2738 to Michigan later this week also. And on the glide path in the  
2739 airport, most likely, you will look down and you will see my  
2740 district and you will see why it is the energy district of the  
2741 state with the nuclear, with the coal, one of the most up-to-date,  
2742 modern coal plants that is still allowed to function as well as  
2743 natural gas and manufacturing of wind energy as well in my  
2744 district.

2745 So we are delighted to have you there. Plus, unlike some of  
2746 my Texas colleagues, you are not going to find hundred-degree  
2747 weather. In fact, when I left the airport today it was 70 degrees,  
2748 very low humidity, blue skies, and pure Michigan, and we look  
2749 forward to sharing that with you. 4 years ago, FERC held  
2750 a technical conference to discuss a needed modernization of rules

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2751 relative to PURPA, a law that is a 1978 law that had very strong,  
2752 positive results in moving us toward renewable energy and doing  
2753 it in such a way that right now it has worked so well that all  
2754 energy providers have moved into that realm. But it is also in  
2755 its present format causing unnecessary billions of dollars to  
2756 be paid by consumers because of the outdated law.

2757 And so as you know, I have been heavily involved for years now  
2758 in trying to reform that and I am pleased that FERC had undertaken  
2759 4 years ago an attempt to modernize it and is currently preparing  
2760 to adopt critical components of reform included in legislation  
2761 that I have championed over the past several Congresses. Due  
2762 to COVID-19, utilities in my home state in Michigan have reported  
2763 an increase in residential usage due to more people staying at  
2764 home.

2765 Mr. Secretary, in your opinion, what impacts would reforms to  
2766 PURPA such as waiving the mandatory purchase obligations for  
2767 qualified facilities have on lowering utility costs for consumers  
2768 at a time when domestic demand for electricity increased in this  
2769 new stay-at-home economy?

2770 Secretary Brouillette. That is a great question and probably  
2771 requires a more thoughtful answer than I am going to be able to  
2772 provide you in 30 seconds. But look, I think generally, sir,  
2773 you know, PURPA needs to be reformed. It was written many, many  
2774 years ago, I think 1978 or so to be exact. You give or take a

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2775 few years from there, but I think it is 1978, and much has changed,  
2776 you know, since then.

2777 We talked about technology today quite a bit, but the markets  
2778 themselves have changed. Back in that point in time, you know,  
2779 utilities were vertically integrated. Today they are not. We  
2780 have very competitive markets. And I think it is, you know,  
2781 appropriate for Congress, for FERC, for others to go back and  
2782 take a look at this law and see if it still meets the needs of  
2783 the American people.

2784 I might suggest that there are some changes that are long overdue  
2785 with regard to PURPA, so I would support a review of the law.

2786 Mr. Walberg. We appreciate that and I am glad to see what is  
2787 being done with FERC. I do believe that, ultimately, we need  
2788 to do it legislatively so it is permanent but it has some  
2789 flexibility in it, unlike the 1978 law.

2790 Secretary Brouillette. Sure.

2791 Mr. Walberg. The Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and  
2792 Emergency Response, CESER, leads the Department of Energy's  
2793 emergency preparedness and coordinated response to disruptions  
2794 to the energy sector including physical and cyber attacks, natural  
2795 disasters, and manmade events.

2796 Two questions. The first is, can you please describe the role  
2797 of the CESER Office over the last few months as it relates to  
2798 COVID-19 outbreak?

2799 And, secondly, Mr. Rush and I, Chairman Rush and I have introduced  
2800 the Energy Emergency Leadership Act which would help ensure the  
2801 durability of DOE leadership in energy emergencies. As the House  
2802 considers future measures in response to COVID-19 outbreak, would  
2803 DOE be better positioned to carry out these functions in the long  
2804 term if the Assistant Secretary of CESER were made permanent in  
2805 the DOE Organization Act and had clear authority through  
2806 congressional authorization?

2807 Secretary Brouillette. The answer to your last question, I think  
2808 I would answer that question yes.

2809 And I want to say thank you to both you and Chairman Rush for  
2810 your support of that particular office. It has been absolutely  
2811 essential. And as we saw in this particular pandemic, it has  
2812 become increasingly important not only for purposes of its role  
2813 with regard to cybersecurity, but its role with regard to the  
2814 catastrophic response efforts. It was the CESER Office that  
2815 provided the masks and provided the testing kits and delivered  
2816 those to the utilities.

2817 It was the CESER Office that worked closely with the CEOs of  
2818 the utilities all across the country to ensure that the control  
2819 room personnel in particular were quarantined and had done the  
2820 proper social distancing so that we didn't lose them at some point  
2821 in this pandemic. Very critical role within the Department and  
2822 I think a very critical role within the industry itself. And

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2823 I think if you mentioned this to other utility CEOs you will find  
2824 a similar response.

2825 Mr. Walberg. Thank you. I appreciate it.

2826 And, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2827 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2828 Mr. Peters from California for 5 minutes.

2829 Mr. Peters. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

2830 And thank you to the Secretary for being with us today. During  
2831 this administration, sir, there has been a shift in what to do  
2832 with nuclear waste. Can you tell us what you think is the  
2833 appropriate path forward on spent nuclear fuel storage? Right  
2834 next to my district is the San Onofre facility which is now closed,  
2835 for better or worse, and leaving it on the coast near a military  
2836 base and near that population just doesn't make any sense.

2837 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. Yes, sir. I am happy to address  
2838 that. We feel very strongly in the administration that we have  
2839 to address the issue of spent nuclear fuel that is currently being  
2840 stored at all of these utilities all across the country. You  
2841 mentioned San Onofre. That is a familiar site for me and a  
2842 familiar topic of conversation for me inside of the DOE.

2843 It is important that we address this, but it is also very clear  
2844 that Congress has chosen not to fund any activity related to what  
2845 was designated as the final repository, Nevada, many years ago,  
2846 and as a result of that we are prohibited from moving forward

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2847 with that particular repository and we won't move forward with  
2848 that repository until Congress decides that it will, you know,  
2849 it may want to do that.

2850 In the interim, however, we will focus on some measures that  
2851 we might take to provide interim relief from the private storage  
2852 or the storage that currently exists today. We have just begun  
2853 that process. It will be open. It will be inclusive. I want  
2854 to work not only with the policymakers here in Congress, but also  
2855 with the governors and the local officials as well so that together  
2856 we might find an appropriate solution. But for the moment, we  
2857 are frozen by the Congress and the lack of funding for anything  
2858 related to the final repository.

2859 Mr. Peters. Would you recommend to Congress and request as part  
2860 of your budget request that we do fund the next steps in processing  
2861 for finalizing the permitting of Yucca Mountain?

2862 Secretary Brouillette. Okay. Now it is on.

2863 I think what we have proposed is a request for funding that might  
2864 lead us to develop some of these interim options. With  
2865 regard to licensing, I will have to go back and look at the budget  
2866 request and see what the specifics were and I would be happy to  
2867 respond to you in writing with that answer.

2868 Mr. Peters. You take a legitimate shot at Congress. I was in  
2869 the last Congress. We had actually passed a bill that would have  
2870 moved Yucca ahead and that has been not the case in this Congress,

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2871 but at the same time we have heard mixed signals from the  
2872 administration itself. And so if you want to get back on board  
2873 with Yucca, I would appreciate doing that directly.

2874 A question about transmission of renewable energy. One of the  
2875 things I have heard and I want to see too what your opinion is  
2876 on this, is that one of the obstacles in getting renewable energy  
2877 from wind farms in places like Texas and from solar farms in places  
2878 like Arizona is that interstate transmission is difficult to  
2879 build. Is that your sense and what is it that Congress can do,  
2880 if that is your sense, to make transmission of those resources  
2881 easier to places like Chicago and Detroit where people might need  
2882 that renewable energy?

2883 Secretary Brouillette. It is my sense. You know, we have talked  
2884 about grid modernization for some years and we have begun some  
2885 important work to doing that. The example that you point out,  
2886 I think, is absolutely on point. You know, we are developing  
2887 generation sources all across the country, but we lack the ability  
2888 to move the power from point A to point B. And, you know, much  
2889 of our electricity grid is, it is many years old and it is time  
2890 that we upgrade these facilities. We have to make them smart.  
2891 We have to get them permitted.

2892 Importantly, I think, for the transmission of electricity we  
2893 need to look at these large infrastructure projects that would  
2894 allow us to do exactly that. It is akin to what we discussed

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2895 in the other area. You know, America is now the world's largest  
2896 producer of energy in terms of oil and gas, and our challenge  
2897 today is not the production. Our challenge in many cases is  
2898 actually getting the product to the marketplace, and the same  
2899 thing exists with electricity.

2900 Mr. Peters. Does the administration support particular reforms  
2901 for permitting interstate transmission lines that would serve  
2902 those northern cities, say, with renewable sources from out of  
2903 state? And if so, what particular reforms would you support?

2904 Secretary Brouillette. You know, I would really like to get  
2905 back to you with a more thoughtful answer because I think there  
2906 are some things that we can work together on to make this a little  
2907 easier, you know, for the development of this type of  
2908 infrastructure. So rather than perhaps giving you an imprecise  
2909 or a less than thoughtful answer, I would appreciate the  
2910 opportunity to perhaps respond to you in writing.

2911 Mr. Peters. I look forward to that, Mr. Secretary. And,  
2912 Mr. Chairman, my time has expired.

2913 Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary, for coming.

2914 And I yield back.

2915 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes  
2916 Mr. O'Halleran for 5 minutes.

2917 Mr. O'Halleran, please mute your phone. Unmute, rather.

2918 Mr. O'Halleran is experiencing some technical difficulties.

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2919 Let us move on.

2920 Ms. Blunt Rochester, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

2921 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2922 And thank you so much, Secretary Brouillette, for joining us  
2923 today.

2924 One of the many things that COVID-19 pandemic has taught us is  
2925 the importance of preparation, and as we start to rebuild our  
2926 economy from this ongoing public health pandemic, we must be  
2927 intentional about how we rebuild. That means rebuilding an  
2928 economy powered by clean energy so that we can have safer and  
2929 healthier communities and it also means working together to be  
2930 better prepared for future public health emergencies.

2931 Last month, I introduced the Open Back Better Act. This  
2932 legislation will ensure that our nation's critical infrastructure  
2933 like hospitals and schools is more resilient, more energy  
2934 efficient, safer, and more reliable to guard against future  
2935 threats, and while creating good jobs and prioritizing the  
2936 communities hit hardest by this pandemic. During a national  
2937 emergency like a pandemic with the additional risks from wildlife,  
2938 hurricanes, and other climate related disasters, we need more  
2939 resilient infrastructure. These upgrades are especially  
2940 important in communities that have been overburdened by the impact  
2941 of pollution, public health emergencies, and natural disasters.

2942 This is why my legislation prioritizes funding for

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2943 environmental justice communities who have been  
2944 disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and which  
2945 we talked about earlier with Ms. Barragan's testimony. As we  
2946 emerge from this health and economic crisis, we must do better  
2947 and we must ensure that we are better prepared for the inevitable  
2948 future emergencies.

2949 Mr. Secretary, can you discuss why resiliency upgrades to  
2950 mission-critical facilities such as our hospitals is so important  
2951 during the pandemic?

2952 Secretary Brouillette. Yes, ma'am. I can. You know, as we  
2953 have seen with this pandemic and, candidly, as we have seen in  
2954 other parts of American history, our reliance upon the electric  
2955 grid has just increased exponentially over the course of the last  
2956 few decades. Almost everything that we do depends in some way,  
2957 shape, or form on the provision of energy, and electricity in  
2958 particular.

2959 So as we looked at the pandemic, we obviously were concerned  
2960 about the hospitals and the provision of health care throughout  
2961 America, but as now we have gotten beyond at least some of the  
2962 initial moments of the pandemic and we start to look at how the  
2963 economy is going to change, we are looking at things like  
2964 teleworking. And I don't have to remind anybody in this hearing,  
2965 because we are doing it today, you can't telework without wifi.  
2966 You don't have wifi without electricity.

2967        So the importance of the grid to our daily life has only been  
2968        heightened by this pandemic and we all see it. So it is important  
2969        that we think about things like resiliency and reliability in  
2970        perhaps a different way than we have in years past. We have  
2971        created at the Department of Energy a resiliency or a resiliency  
2972        model which is going to allow us when fully developed, and we  
2973        are very close to bringing this out, we can see the entire grid  
2974        in real time and address challenges that we may face in almost  
2975        every part of the country. So be it a cyber threat or be it a  
2976        load threat, we work closely with the utilities and we can see  
2977        these things in real time and address them in real time.

2978        And in certain cases, as we further develop the model, we may  
2979        be able to predict where we will have load challenges or particular  
2980        threats that we need to address so that we can ensure the safe,  
2981        reliable provision of electricity.

2982        Ms. Blunt Rochester. Mr. Secretary, thank you for that answer.

2983        And you have kind of preempted one of my questions and we have  
2984        many more that we will send to you in writing.

2985        But as you were talking, I am very focused on the future of work,  
2986        and as you said, whether it is distance learning, telework, or  
2987        telemedicine, telehealth, we have seen an increase in need. And  
2988        I am curious. During the pandemic I have been talking to  
2989        companies about what has changed in the way that they operate.

2990        Can you talk about what has changed in the way your Department

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2991 approach is working with other federal and state partners to  
2992 ensure the continued reliability of the U.S. electric system?  
2993 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. I don't know that we have, I mean  
2994 the workforce has changed quite dramatically, so I mean we are  
2995 in a maximum telework environment now. And I don't have an exact  
2996 number for you, but I would be happy to provide you an update.  
2997 But if I had to guess today, I would probably suggest that perhaps  
2998 60 percent of the workforce at DOE is now teleworking. There  
2999 are certain job functions at the Department, the delivery of a  
3000 nuclear warhead to the United States Navy or the U.S. Air Force,  
3001 you simply can't do that over the telephone. You have to  
3002 physically deliver it. So we are taking the precaution --  
3003 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Are you working differently with other  
3004 agencies though? Has anything changed or have you noticed  
3005 anything?  
3006 Secretary Brouillette. Not so much in that sense. I mean, you  
3007 know, we are still very, very interactive. You know, our  
3008 teleworking capabilities, we have learned that our networks, our  
3009 IT networks are very robust. We have adapted to the new workplace  
3010 much like the rest of America has.  
3011 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Well, I have run out of time, but I will  
3012 follow up with you to ask how does the upcoming hurricane season  
3013 impact the electrical system's reliability in this public health  
3014 crisis. And thank you so much for your testimony.

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3015 And thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

3016 Mr. Rush. The gentlelady yields back.

3017 Mr. O'Halleran, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

3018 Are you there, Mr. O'Halleran? Your audio is not working.

3019 Please unmute.

3020 Mr. O'Halleran, while you are working on your audio, the chair

3021 will recognize -- Mr. O'Halleran, are you there?

3022 The chair now recognizes two individuals who have waived onto

3023 the committee for the purposes of questioning the witness. The

3024 chair now recognizes the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Shimkus,

3025 for 5 minutes.

3026 Mr. Shimkus. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3027 And, Dan, great to have you here. One of my last times to harass

3028 a Secretary of Energy and I had to waive on. I feel like a

3029 freshman. I had to wait like 2 hours. So, but it is an important

3030 issue and you know the issues. I had to drop off to talk with

3031 the corn growers on fuels and that those questions have been asked

3032 by Dave Loeb sack.

3033 So you also know that a lot of my career has been spent on nuclear

3034 fuel and nuclear waste and I want to talk about, start with the

3035 closing of the fuel cycle and the current federal law is that

3036 the federal government should take title to the spent nuclear

3037 fuel and the defense waste. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act passed

3038 in '82 and '87 identified that that was our responsibility; is

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3039 that correct?

3040 Secretary Brouillette. It is. Yes, sir.

3041 Mr. Shimkus. And would you also agree that it is the  
3042 international scientific consensus that long-term geological  
3043 repository for high-level nuclear waste and defense waste is the  
3044 international scientific consensus?

3045 Secretary Brouillette. I would agree with that. I think there  
3046 is a general consensus in the scientific community that that is  
3047 the best long-term way to dispose of the spent fuel.

3048 Mr. Shimkus. Yeah. Britain is looking at it. France is  
3049 looking at it. Sweden is looking at it. Finland is looking at  
3050 it. So you know where I am going. It is no surprise that we  
3051 have the law of the land for failure of the appropriators to spend  
3052 the money. Our spent fuel should be going and our defense waste  
3053 should be going to Yucca Mountain in Nevada, which has been, done  
3054 the research, the due diligence, and has passed the scrutiny of  
3055 science. So we will continue to drive those issues hopefully  
3056 in other venues.

3057 Let me go to the other really important issue which is the  
3058 beginning of the fuel cycle. In the beginning of the fuel cycle  
3059 when we are reprocessing, how many plants do we have that reprocess  
3060 to help create nuclear fuel in this country?

3061 Secretary Brouillette. I am sorry. I didn't quite hear. How  
3062 many plants do we have that reprocess?

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3063 Mr. Shimkus. Yeah, or that do the yellow cake into the process  
3064 of like we see at Metropolis?

3065 Secretary Brouillette. That do the conversion processes?

3066 Mr. Shimkus. Right.

3067 Secretary Brouillette. To my knowledge I think we only have  
3068 one, but I will double check that.

3069 Mr. Shimkus. And that one is, and that one, we believe, is in  
3070 Metropolis. And is that operating right now?

3071 Secretary Brouillette. They are in a standby mode, as I  
3072 understand. They are not fully operational.

3073 Mr. Shimkus. So we appreciate this nuclear energy working group  
3074 and which addressed the domestic uranium reserve which we talked  
3075 about offline, and I appreciate that. And as I raised to you  
3076 on our call, there is a gap of work that may help the reprocessing  
3077 in the future. Since there is a shutdown now, the concern is  
3078 is that we are not going to have a facility to deal with this  
3079 front end even with this domestic uranium reserve.

3080 Can you talk about some options that might be on the table to  
3081 help places like Honeywell in Metropolis, Illinois?

3082 Secretary Brouillette. Sure. I am happy to do that. You know,  
3083 as we pointed out in the Nuclear Fuels Working Group, it is not  
3084 enough for us just to simply create a uranium reserve. It is  
3085 not enough for us to pull it out of the ground and stack it up  
3086 someplace and have it available for some future use. You must

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3087 convert it. You must enrich it. You must have it available as  
3088 fuel for it to have any practical value.

3089 And that is our intent with the Working Group. That is our  
3090 intent. That is why we requested \$150 million in the President's  
3091 budget to establish this reserve. We fully respect the right  
3092 of Congress to disagree with that, but we think it is important  
3093 for us to do as a nation. With regard to that one facility, you  
3094 know, that you mentioned earlier, we think it is important for  
3095 us to maintain that type of capability here in the United States.

3096 And it is my commitment to you, it is our Department's commitment  
3097 to you to be focused on that over the course of the next few days  
3098 and weeks, because I understand the critical economic condition  
3099 in which that particular facility is in and I look forward to  
3100 working with you to see what we might do in terms of finding options  
3101 or solutions to maintain this important capability here in the  
3102 United States.

3103 Mr. Shimkus. Thank you very much.

3104 Chairman, my time has expired. I yield back.

3105 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back. The chair recognizes Mr.  
3106 O'Halleran. Are you there, Mr. O'Halleran?

3107 The chair now recognizes the final member today who has also  
3108 waived on. Mr. Burgess, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

3109 Mr. Burgess. I thank the chairman for letting me waive on.

3110 I was actually a member of this subcommittee for over a decade,

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3111 but when I was called to duty on the Rules Committee, I had to  
3112 give up one of my subcommittees and, unfortunately, Energy was  
3113 that subcommittee. But happy to be with you, Mr. Secretary.  
3114 As we are looked upon by Billy Tauzin's portrait up on the wall,  
3115 it is significant that you are here today. Fascinating  
3116 discussion hearing you talk about getting energy from where it  
3117 is created to where it is needed. Your predecessor, Secretary  
3118 Perry, when he was my governor, the longest-serving governor in  
3119 Texas history by the way, created these Competitive Renewable  
3120 Energy Zones for, as a state program, but bringing wind energy  
3121 from West Texas to the population centers in the eastern part  
3122 of the state and, of course, those crossed the district that I  
3123 represent.

3124 And just like as you might imagine, a pipeline or a highway  
3125 bringing those high-tension electrical wires across your district  
3126 from west to east can create a great deal of attention, so it  
3127 is not just the pipelines. It is not just other areas, but we  
3128 are, you know, being in favor of wind energy means you also need  
3129 to be in favor of the infrastructure that is the deliverable to  
3130 get it to where it is needed. And again, your predecessor was,  
3131 when he was Governor of Texas was certainly very involved in that.  
3132 On the issues of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and you and  
3133 I have had an opportunity to talk about this and the -- just can  
3134 you speak to where we are with the modernization of the Strategic

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3135 Petroleum Reserve and what it, as you see its future utility might  
3136 be over and above what its national security implications have  
3137 been in the past?

3138 Secretary Brouillette. I would be happy to, Mr. Burgess, and  
3139 thank you for your service to Texas. It means a lot to all of  
3140 us who live there. Even as an adopted son of Texas, I really  
3141 appreciate your service to the state and to the country.

3142 You know, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is a national asset  
3143 and as you well know, because of your long history here on this  
3144 committee and in Texas, you know it's important to our national  
3145 security. What we need to do with the Strategic Petroleum  
3146 Reserve, in my view, is to continue the Life Extension program  
3147 that was started some time ago. The facility has become quite  
3148 old. It is important that we continue to maintain it in a way  
3149 that allows it to continue to be helpful to the nation.

3150 I would also suggest that the Congress might want to consider  
3151 perhaps upgrading some of the facility as well. When it was  
3152 designed, it was designed to take in oil. It wasn't designed  
3153 to discharge oil. Not very effective. Or, I am sorry, I had  
3154 that backwards. It was designed to take it out, not put it in.

3155 And it is very important that we think about, you know, whether  
3156 or not we would like to upgrade the facility so that it would  
3157 allow us to take in oil even more efficiently than we can currently  
3158 do so today.

3159 As you know, you know, the President directed me to fill the  
3160 Strategic Petroleum Reserve and we have been doing exactly that.

3161 We are somewhat limited by the amount and the volume of oil that  
3162 we can actually take in to the facility itself. So as we move  
3163 forward, I would love to work with this committee. I would love  
3164 to work with Congress more broadly to think about how we might  
3165 upgrade that important facility.

3166 Mr. Burgess. Well, certainly that, in my opinion, was an  
3167 oversight to leave the purchase of additional petroleum for the  
3168 Strategic Petroleum Reserve out of the CARES Act, and I do have  
3169 a bill with Senator Hoeven designed to do just that and I do want  
3170 to work with you on that.

3171 Can I just ask you a question? Since I am also on the Rules  
3172 Committee, we are going to be hearing about the National Defense  
3173 Authorization Act in the Rules Committee at the end of this week  
3174 and the whole issue of the authority, taking the authority from  
3175 the Department of Energy to some other location for America's  
3176 nuclear weapons. Historically, you have maintained and had the  
3177 authority over the nation's nuclear capability. Can you speak  
3178 to why civilian control of the nuclear arsenal is so important?

3179 Secretary Brouillette. I think, I don't know that I can give  
3180 you all of the details around it, but it is a longstanding  
3181 military, it is a longstanding tenet in our national security  
3182 apparatus here in the United States. It is one of the reasons

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3183 I think, you know, especially when you are talking about nuclear  
3184 warheads, I mean we are not talking about side arms. We are not  
3185 talking about, you know, 9 millimeter rounds. We are talking  
3186 about, you know, weapons of mass destruction. These are very  
3187 large warheads.

3188 From its very creation, the Atomic Energy Commission was created  
3189 as a civilian agency because it was civilian scientists who helped  
3190 develop the technology. It has been those scientists and their  
3191 successors who have maintained that capability here in the United  
3192 States. It has always been in the Department of Energy. It has  
3193 always been in the scientific realm and that is why we have  
3194 developed these national laboratories.

3195 It is also why we have developed the supercomputing capabilities  
3196 that allow us to simulate things like testing today. You know,  
3197 the United States stopped testing its warheads in 1992. As these  
3198 warheads now age, it is very, very important that we monitor that  
3199 aging process and we ensure the safety and effectiveness of the  
3200 stockpile. To do that we rely upon the national laboratories  
3201 that are all part of the DOE network and all part of the DOE  
3202 enterprise.

3203 And that is why, if Congress is considering a change, I would  
3204 urge it leave it within the Department of Energy so that the NNSA  
3205 can continue to rely upon these national assets.

3206 Mr. Burgess. I will just commit to you and anything in the future

3207 this committee can do to ensure that the security, National  
3208 Nuclear Security Agency stays within the Department of Energy,  
3209 I think, is critically important and I will make that commitment  
3210 to you as well.

3211 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you.

3212 Mr. Burgess. All right, thank you.

3213 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

3214 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back.

3215 We have some unanimous consent requests that I want to itemize  
3216 here and request unanimous consent to enter into the record a  
3217 letter from former Secretaries Perry and Moniz to the Armed  
3218 Services Committees; a letter from the Secretary of Energy to  
3219 Chairman Inhofe; a letter from Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member  
3220 Walden to the Armed Services Committee; a letter from Norm  
3221 Augustine and Richard Mies to the NDAA Conferees; a letter from  
3222 former DOE Secretaries to the NDAA Conferees; a letter from  
3223 Ranking Member Upton and former Chairman Waxman to the Armed  
3224 Services Committees; a February 2016 memorandum from the  
3225 Secretary of Energy Advisory Board; and, finally, a May 2020 op-ed  
3226 by Secretary Brouillette. And hearing no objection, the  
3227 unanimous consent request is approved.

3228 This concludes the witness questioning portion of our hearing,  
3229 and I want to thank you, Mr. Secretary, for your participation  
3230 in today's hearing. It has been a lengthy hearing --

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3231 Secretary Brouillette. Thank you.

3232 Mr. Rush. -- but it has been an excellent hearing and we thank  
3233 you for your excellent testimony.

3234 I do remind members that pursuant to committee rules they have  
3235 10 business days to submit additional questions for the record  
3236 to be answered by the Secretary who has appeared before this  
3237 subcommittee. I ask the Secretary to respond promptly to any  
3238 such questions that you may receive.

3239 And at this time, the subcommittee is hereby adjourned.

3240 [Whereupon, at 3:39 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]