

**Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Hearing on “The Fiscal Year 2023 DOE Budget”**

April 28, 2022

*As Prepared for Delivery*

Energy is foundational to everything we do. Because of President Biden’s energy crisis, everything is more expensive—gas, food, diapers, air fare, heating our homes, buying a car, and much more. Inflation now costs households \$5,000 a year on average.

Families across Eastern Washington are telling me groceries have doubled. Gas prices are causing some of the greatest harm. Gas is more than \$4 dollars a gallon because of the administration’s actions to undermine our energy independence.

My Democratic colleagues are doubling down on their blatant blame shifting for political cover by unveiling a bill to give the Federal Trade Commission more authority to go after “price gouging.” The American people know this isn’t price gouging or Putin’s price hike, it’s a Biden price hike since the day he took office.

We must flip the switch for more domestic energy production. It is how we lower costs, ensure reliability, and strengthen our security and geopolitical power, too. Russia’s immoral and brutal war in Ukraine and Europe’s energy crises prove all that is at stake.

Because of Europe’s rush-to-green and reliance on Russian energy, citizens are being asked to cut consumption and turn their lights off. Scarcity is Europe’s answer. This can’t be America’s future.

Our energy abundance is how we should lead, keep the lights on, lower costs, and fight Putin’s war chest and counter Communist China. Our path cannot be to weaken American leadership by receding from world energy markets and dismantling our tremendous energy systems. Yet, that’s what we are seeing.

This administration’s rush-to-green agenda has raised costs and emboldened our adversaries like Putin and the Chinese Communist Party. President Biden canceled Keystone on Day 1 but greenlighted Putin’s Nord

Stream 2 pipeline. His rush to electric vehicles makes us reliant on China. He imposed a moratorium on energy development on federal lands, and slow-walked permits for much-needed energy infrastructure projects.

U.S. oil production has fallen by more than 1.5 million barrels per day since peaking at 13 million barrels per day in 2020. Secretary Granholm said yesterday that “Perhaps renewable energy is the greatest peace plan this world will ever know.” I cannot overstate how dangerous this misguided line of thinking is. Has this administration learned anything from how Europe’s rush to green empowered Putin and how it will make us even more dangerously reliant on the CCP? Our adversaries are laughing at us.

We need a course reversal. President Biden must reverse his war on American energy. We urge our Democratic colleagues to join us on our agenda to secure cleaner American energy. We can say ‘yes’ to flipping the switch on domestic production of cleaner oil and natural gas.

Say ‘yes’ to the American Energy Independence from Russia Act. We can say ‘yes’ to advanced nuclear and new nuclear fuels, by fostering new domestic markets and lifting regulations. We can say ‘yes’ to innovation that will lead to abundant, affordable, and clean energy.

DOE was formed to advance the nuclear security missions of the Cold War and later organized to confront the energy security needs created by the 1970s energy crises. These missions still matter, more than ever, but this administration has strayed from them in pursuit of appeasing the ideological Left and radical environmentalists.

DOE continues to maintain the nation’s nuclear deterrent. It serves central roles in international nuclear security and powers the nuclear navy. A well-managed DOE enterprise produces amazing benefits.

Consider the Hanford site, now a major clean-up site, just outside my district. Hanford served as the backbone for our nation’s Cold War nuclear work, birthed a great national lab at PNNL, and is now offering land to support development of X-energy’s advanced nuclear technologies. This is building, and this is innovating using our existing resources—and it can be extended across the DOE complex, if it is well-managed.

To close, I want to emphasize again why we need to flip the switch and boost our energy production. Last year in your budget hearing, we warned about the consequences of the administration's war on American energy. Today, these consequences are our reality. Rising gas prices, an emboldened Russia, a reliance on Chinese supply chains, and weakened security. The Biden administration must abandon this radical agenda.

Secretary Granholm, you must restore the core mission on security—both national and economic. It's urgent. Let's celebrate and utilize our energy abundance. Not shut it down. Let's lead a new era of American leadership, not accept a decline on the backs of hardworking Americans by ceding our security to Russia and China. Thank you. I yield back.

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