

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security
Ranking Member Diana DeGette

Hearing on “The Fiscal Year 2024 Department of Energy Budget”

May 11, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Duncan.

And thank you to Secretary Granholm for taking the time to be here today.

I want to commend you and your agency for the critical work you’ve been doing in recent years to help us combat the climate crisis and ensuring that Americans continue to have access to the energy they need as we transition to more renewable forms of electricity.

As I’ve said countless times before while sitting here at this dais, the climate crisis is an existential threat to the future of this planet and it’s one that must be addressed immediately. We know the only way to meaningfully address this crisis is by significantly cutting our greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.

We know, to do that, we must expedite our transition to clean sources of energy now. Breaking our reliance on fossil fuels will not only help us stave off the worst effects of the climate crisis, but it will also protect consumers across this country from sudden increases in the cost of gasoline that can strain families’ budgets, and will help us ensure that all Americans have access to the affordable, reliable energy that they need. And I believe the Department of Energy’s proposed budget for next year will put us a path toward doing exactly that.

By increasing funding for key research projects and initiatives, and continuing to focus on industrial decarbonization, supply chain development and work force transition, the Department is helping us create a cleaner, more diverse energy portfolio here in the United States.

The agency’s plans to invest \$9.4 billion for Energy Programs and \$8.8 billion for the Office of Science will help advance the research, development and demonstration of clean energy technologies, and support the work that’s being done by our National Laboratories.

While there’s no doubt that we still have a long way to go in making this clean-energy transition, the investments that will be made under this proposal will provide critical support to this incredibly important endeavor.

It will provide \$1.2 billion for industrial decarbonization efforts, including \$160 million for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations to support large-scale industrial decarbonization projects.

It includes \$75 million to launch the Global Clean Energy Manufacturing initiative, which will help build resilient supply chains for the clean energy future, a critical component of this fight.

And it includes \$2 billion to support the clean-energy workforce and help fund key infrastructure projects across the nation, including millions of dollars to help weatherize low-income communities and retrofit their homes to lower energy costs for communities that have been forced to disproportionately bear the brunt of this climate crisis for far too long.

Each and every one of these proposals will play a critical role in helping us combat the climate crisis. They will also help us not only stabilize the cost of energy here at home, but they will also help lower it for many Americans by making critical new investments to increase our energy efficiency and drive the innovation of new clean energy technologies.

This budget also makes commonsense investments in cyber- and energy-system security, as well as environmental health and management for low-income communities. It includes \$156.6 million for the Energy Information Agency, whose work provides critical energy information and data that informs our work. It includes \$56.6 million for the Office of Technology Transition to help accelerate the commercialization of new clean energy technologies. And it includes \$165.2 million for the DOE Office of the Inspector General.

As the former top Democrat on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, I understand how robust congressional oversight is to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively.

I believe that this budget will allow the DOE to place the United States as a leader in the clean energy transition, and I thank you, Sec. Granholm, again for being here today and I look forward to today's discussion.

With that I yield back.