

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 2025 Department of Energy Budget”

May 1, 2024

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 to help us combat the climate crisis and to support our efforts to speed our transition towards renewable energy. As I’ve said countless times before while sitting 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. 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 the country from sudden increases in energy costs and will help us ensure all Americans have access to the affordable, reliable energy they need.

I appreciate your leadership and the hard work of the Department of Energy employees in implementing three historic bills that are cutting costs for working families, creating new jobs, and addressing the climate crisis. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$1.2 trillion to our nation’s infrastructure, the Inflation Reduction Act invested \$369 billion in American clean energy leadership and addressing greenhouse gas pollution, while the CHIPS and Science Act boosted domestic research and manufacturing here in the United States.

And the Department of Energy’s proposed FY25 budget complements and builds upon those efforts and pushes us closer to achieving net zero emissions and a clean energy future. By increasing funding for key research projects and initiatives and continuing to focus on 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 \$18.1 billion for Energy Programs, including \$8.6 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 we still have a long way to go in completing this clean-energy transition, the investments that will be made under this budget will provide critical support to this incredibly important endeavor. It will provide \$180 million for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations to support large-scale industrial decarbonization projects.

And it includes \$1.6 billion to support the clean-energy workforce and help fund key infrastructure projects across the nation, including millions of dollars to help low-income communities weatherize and retrofit their homes to lower energy costs for families that have been forced to disproportionately bear the brunt of this climate crisis for far too long.

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Each 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 \$142 million for the Energy Information Agency, whose work provides critical energy information and data that informs our work. And it includes \$149 million for the DOE Office of the Inspector General to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. I believe this budget will further support the work DOE has been doing to make the United States a leader in the clean energy transition, and I thank you, Sec. Granholm, again for being here today.

Before I yield back, Mr. Chairman, the majority's hearing memo had some errors in it when it came to stating components of the DOE's Fiscal Year 2025 budget request – in one case mis-stating the total amount spent on energy programs by \$9 billion. I want to make sure the record reflects reality, so I ask unanimous consent to insert the DOE's own budget estimate into the record . And with that, I yield back.