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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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June 11, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy hearing on Thursday, April 16, 2026, to testify at the hearing entitled "The Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Energy Budget."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Monday, July 6, 2026. Your responses should be mailed to Seth Ricketts Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Seth.Ricketts@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Bob Latta (R-OH)

1. Domestic policies also make global market impacts even worse. California experiences the highest gas prices in the continental U.S. where it has limited its oil production, limited pipelines, and relies on 30% of its oil from Strait of Hormuz. It also has closed many refineries. What does this mean for military readiness and our Pacific fleet?
 - a. What can DOE do to help expand and optimize our refining capacity to increase energy security and lower prices?
2. Our energy and national security are also increased with a robust nuclear infrastructure. Congress has banned Russian enriched fuels to incentivize more secure fuel infrastructure. How is DOE working to help build out nuclear supply chains and nuclear fuel infrastructure?
3. The manufacturing base of nuclear components such as forgings, reactor pressure vessels, specialty alloys, and nuclear-grade graphite remains a critical bottleneck to building nuclear reactors. In some cases, domestic capacity for these components is extremely limited or simply doesn't exist. What should Congress be doing to stand up a fully domestic nuclear supply chain?
4. On December 3, 2025, President Trump announced the “freedom Means Affordable Cars” initiative, directing agencies to reexamine the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards that the Biden Administration imposed. It is my understanding that DOE is reevaluating the Petroleum-Equivalency Factor (PEF), used within the CAFE framework. As DOE works through its rulemaking process, what considerations are being made to ensure regulatory stability for auto manufacturers, who plan their vehicle development years in advance?
 - a. To what extent would lowering the PEF push automakers to shift their vehicle mix toward more electric vehicles in order to remain compliant with CAFE standards?
 - i. Is DOE analyzing how much a lower PEF would affect the availability and affordability of larger, family-oriented vehicles—such as full-size SUVs and pickups—that already face tougher treatment under the National Highway Traffic Safety administration (NHTSA) reclassification proposals?
 - ii. What specific coordination is DOE undertaking with NHTSA to evaluate the combined impact of a potential change to the PEF and the proposed SUV/truck reclassification on overall CAFE compliance?
5. This past December, 2025, the House Permanent Select Committee on China issues a report, entitled Containment Breach: The U.S. Department Energy’s Failures in Research

Security and Protecting Taxpayer-Funded Research from Foreign Exploitation. The reports findings raised questions concerning DOE funding research relationships and collaboration of DOE funding awardees with China's Defense Research and Industrial Base, among other issues. Please describe DOE's response to this report (and you may do so under a separate classified index to these questions for the record.)

- a. What steps is DOE taking to investigate inappropriate collaborative relationships with China's defense establishment and other adversarial Chinese entities?
 - b. What steps is DOE taking to prevent collaboration of DOE funded research with China's Defense Research and Industrial Base and other malign or adversarial components of the Chinese Communist Party?
6. Under the licensing regime Congress established at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, licensees effectively cover the costs of licensing reviews and oversight, with a handful of specific exceptions.

When the Department of Energy authorizes nuclear reactors and fuel facilities, is there a mechanism for the applicant to cover the costs? If so, please describe that mechanism.

- a. What are the budgetary and employee resource estimates for authorizing reactors and fuel facilities for Fiscal Year 2027?

The Honorable Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

1. As you know, demand for power is accelerating at an unprecedented pace. Last year, we talked about the nation needing about 150 gigawatts of new generation over the next ten years. In January NERC reported we'll need well over 220 gigawatts of power to meet peak demand in ten years. You talk about access to energy as unlocking human flourishing. What does this accelerating power demand say about the huge economic promise on the horizon?
2. We talked last year about the AI challenge and China. Can you explain how enabling AI success through abundant dispatchable generation—if done right—will help lower power prices for Americans?
3. The NRC has been implementing the ADVANCE Act and updating its regulations at a rapid pace. In March the NRC issued the Congressionally directed, first-of-its-kind regulatory framework, focused on efficient, risk informed licensing.

This is promising work. Can you commit that your work with NRC will be constructive and in furtherance of its important mission to ensure adequate safety of commercial reactors?

- a. How is DOE working with NRC so there is a seamless handoff on licensing commercial reactors?

The Honorable Troy Balderson (R-OH)

1. Mr. Secretary, given this rapid development and the amount of large loads and new power looking to be built and connected, it's important we have accurate load forecasting. Can you briefly discuss why it's important we work with states and various stakeholders to promote best practices with load forecasting, so ratepayers are protected from underbuilding or, in some cases, overbuilding?
2. Secretary Wright, as electricity demand rises at historic rates, generation interconnection queues remain badly backlogged. In many cases, power plants that grid operators identify as essential to reliability are stuck for years in interconnection queues, behind speculative projects that may never be built.

To address this, the House passed my bill, the GRID Power Act, which would help prioritize and expedite dispatchable generation projects through interconnection queues and improve grid reliability.

Would you agree that the growing mismatch between rapidly increasing electricity demand and congested interconnection queues is a serious reliability challenge?

3. Earlier this year, the Department awarded funding to modernize and upgrade several coal-fired power plants, including two in the State of Ohio. As we saw during Winter Storm Fern, dispatchable power was critical to ensuring the lights stayed on across the nation.

Can you discuss how protecting and enhancing our current coal fleet will ensure reliability during peak demand and extreme weather? And how does this impact affordability for our constituents?

4. The previous Administration was focused on an energy transition that would end use of coal, natural gas, and other fossil energy over the next twenty years. Their efforts focused on regulatory attacks on coal and gas generation, expensive standards and subsidies to drive growth of weather-dependent energy. Why is this energy policy approach bad for American families and our future prosperity?

The Honorable August Pfluger (R-TX)

1. Can you please provide a status of DOE's review of the Methane Emissions Reduction Program Oil and Gas Methane Monitoring and Mitigation grant for Area of Interest 3b titled "Methane Management through Multi-scale Measurements: From Measurement to Mitigation in South Central Production Regions" for the University of Texas at Austin? This multi-scale methane emission measurement approach is critical for my district and the sustained oil production in the Permian Basin as a national and energy security measure.

2. We continue to see cost growth, schedule delays, and limited data transparency across DOE and NNSA construction and infrastructure projects, including those carried out by the National Labs and management and operating contractors.

We're also seeing commercially available construction management and project control platforms that improve project oversight, cost control, and schedule performance.

Has the Department assessed the feasibility of adopting these types of platforms across DOE and NNSA projects, and is this something that would be helpful to ensure cost control and reduce schedule delays?

- a. What challenges or barriers do you anticipate in standardizing these platforms enterprise-wide?
- b. If not, will you commit to exploring these types of standardized platforms that improve transparency and performance for contractors and National Laboratories – not to mention save taxpayer funds?
- c. How does modernizing construction management platforms within your agency align with DOE's broader efforts to improve project delivery and stewardship of taxpayer resources?

The Honorable Randy Weber (R-TX)

1. As you know, Texas is home to the HyVelocity Hydrogen Hub. I am very grateful for the news that DOE completed its grant program review and selected the HyVelocity Hub to be retained moving forward. This Hub will generate tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic investment from the private sector in Texas.

I understand the HyVelocity Hub has applied to the DOE to move to Phase 2 and is currently awaiting your department's approval to shift from planning these projects to project development, permitting, and operating these facilities. Can you share an update on the timeline for when we may see the HyVelocity Hub move into Phase 2?

The Honorable Erin Houchin (R-IN)

1. How does the \$1.53 billion dollar request for the Office of Nuclear Programs help meet the President's goal for energy dominance and ensure that nuclear generation is a core component of providing the power needs for growth?
2. How will the \$226 million dollar investment into the Advanced Reactors Demonstration Program lead to innovative designs that may provide additional pathways for competitive nuclear commercialization in the years ahead?
3. How is the Department of Energy identifying the clearing of the technological, mechanical, supply chain, bureaucratic, and workforce bottlenecks in the development of a steady pipeline of commercial nuclear generation?

4. Earlier this month, the Department of Energy collected state submissions for the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus. This is an encouraging step by the Trump Administration to contribute serious research dollars to address some of the remaining. Please describe the planned deployment of the innovation campuses, and the framework of how the advancements made by these facility's innovations in the areas of fabrication, enrichment, reprocessing, and disposition of waste will be integrated into the preexisting nuclear energy network?

The Honorable Michael A. Rulli (R-OH)

1. It is my understanding that the department has paused work on Emission Value Requests (EVRs) and Provisional Emissions Rate (PER) analyses in connection with the Section 45V clean hydrogen tax credit, reportedly because the department does not have funding to continue the work.

This affects a methanol facility which is to be constructed in my region, just across the Ohio River in Congressman Moore (R-WV)'s District. The facility has been awaiting action since January. Why is DOE without funding to continue this work?

- a. What is the program under which funding is provided?
- b. Is my understanding that the funding may originate with the Department of Treasury, and is provided to DOE through a contractor-like relationship to conduct the EVR/PER reviews, correct?
 - i. If so, has Treasury provided sufficient funding to DOE?
 - ii. If not, If Treasury has not provided sufficient funding, why has it not?
- c. What is DOE doing to resolve the problem?
- d. How soon will DOE be able to resume and complete work on EVR/PER reviews?

The Honorable Kathy Castor (D-FL)

1. DOE has re-launched the program as SPARK with a new focus on speed-to-power. The funding solicitation appears to directly contradict specific Congressional statute – it restricts projects that connect solar and wind and fails to prioritize projects that maximize community resilience benefits. Meanwhile, the statute creating the program explicitly included “the ability to integrate intermittent generation sources” as an approved function. Please explain how DOE will adhere to Congressional statute in the implementation of this program and not unduly discriminate against projects based on resource type.
2. The President's proposed FY27 budget puts \$800 million from GRIP funds into a new “Baseload Power” program. How does DOE plan to incorporate the SPARK program into the design and implementation of the new Baseload program?

3. In 2022, Congress passed two home energy rebate programs – providing up to \$22,000, distributed through the states, to help families conduct retrofits or buy energy efficient appliances. Many states, like Florida, have developed their implementation plans and are ready to go – but they are still waiting on DOE approval. What is the status of DOE’s implementation and approval of state energy rebates, particularly for Florida?
4. Over the past year, the Administration has spent billions in taxpayer dollars to take equity stakes in critical minerals and mining companies, including by restructuring previously negotiated DOE loans. There are concerns that this practice may undermine broader market competition and innovation. It may also create potential ethical and regulatory conflicts of interest and potentially prioritize corporate profits over the interest of the American people. Additionally, in the case of critical minerals companies, the Administration’s anti-clean vehicle policies have the potential to negatively impact offtake agreements and shareholder value for these companies.
 - a. Please describe DOE’s equity stakes in Lithium Americas, and the legal authorities that permitted DOE to become a shareholder?
 - b. Did DOE consider alternative options for financial assistance before acquiring equity stakes in Lithium Americas?
 - c. How will Trump Administration policies that have weakened demand for US-produced lithium, such as the rollback of the clean vehicle tax credits, expose the government and the public to downside risk in the Lithium Americas deal?
5. The President’s proposed FY27 budget includes a higher request for administrative funding for the Office of Energy Dominance Financing Title 17 programs.
 - a. What is the Administration’s plan to increase staff capacity in areas where critical skills were lost?
 - b. More broadly, how does the total volume of applications and expressions of interest at EDF compare to DOE’s available loan authority and credit subsidy capacity?
6. The manufacturing base of nuclear components such as forgings, reactor pressure vessels, specialty alloys, and nuclear-grade graphite remains a critical bottleneck to building nuclear reactors. In some cases, domestic capacity for these components is extremely limited or simply doesn't exist. What should we be doing to stand up a fully domestic nuclear supply chain capable of delivering on our nuclear energy goals?

The Honorable Kevin Mullin (D-CA)

1. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included funding for the Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) Purchase Pilot Prize. In addition to its initial \$35 million allocation, Congress has acted on a bipartisan basis to continue funding CDR purchasing efforts at the Department

of Energy (DOE), providing a total of \$85 million across the last three fiscal years, most recently \$45 million in the FY26 budget. To date, only \$1.2 million has been spent and the program is paused "Pending Administration Approval," according to the prize website. What is DOE's plan to restart this program in accordance with Congressional direction?

2. On April 14, 2026, DOE provided the House Energy and Commerce Committee with a list of awards which indicated that DOE will move forward with the two large-scale Direct Air Capture (DAC) Hubs and seven DAC Hub Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) studies that were paused since January 2025.
 - a. When can the award recipients expect funding to resume?
 - b. For awards that were not reinstated and where grantees pursued informal dispute resolution, is DOE still working with the grantees, as required by the Code of Federal Regulations?

Addendum
July 22, 2026

The Honorable Nick Langworthy (R-NY)

1. The West Valley Demonstration Project in my district has made substantial progress, including last year's successful demolition of the Main Plant Process Building. However, significant work remains, including additional facility demolition and the removal of roughly 10 million cubic feet of contaminated soil to further reduce long-term environmental risk. As DOE moves into this next phase of cleanup, can you discuss the importance of sustained coordination and predictable resources to ensure the project remains on schedule and safely advances toward completion?