

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Russ Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Wright and Director Vought:

We write in strong opposition to the Trump administration unlawfully cancelling \$8 billion in federal investments in 223 energy projects.

Your cancellation of these projects will irreparably harm Americans in all the 21 states with impacted projects, and all additional states that rely on those projects. For the 21 states with impacted projects, your cancellations will mean thousands of lost jobs for Americans, many of whom had every reason to rely on the stability of their jobs before these cancellations and all of whom will face uncertain job markets in our increasingly slowing economy. It will mean lost educational opportunities for countless students at the now-cancelled university-led projects. It will mean difficulty obtaining private financing for impacted developers and utilities, not just on the now-cancelled grants but on other future opportunities that depend in any way on the stability of government permits, investments, and grants. It will mean less domestic manufacturing and innovation, all while diminishing America's competitive leadership globally. And it will mean higher energy bills for households and businesses across the country, all of whom are already stretched thin thanks to the affordability crisis instigated by this administration's tariffs and economic policy.

The illegality of your cancellations is the only thing as indisputable as the harm your cancellations will wreak. The grants you terminated were authorized and appropriated under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and annual appropriation bills which were passed by Congress and signed into law. The Department must expend these funds and faithfully execute the law, including many programs that have strict requirements for the timing of fund expenditure, purposes, and contractual expectations. In cancelling these awards, the Department points to authority to cancel these awards under 2 C.F.R. § 200.340, which provides very limited circumstances under which federal awards may be terminated, such as if an entity fails to comply with the conditions of the award, if the federal government and the entity mutually agree to terminate the award, or if the entity notifies the government of its intent to terminate the award. You have provided no indication that these conditions apply here.

Given the states impacted by these cancellations, the only criterion for cancelling the impacted projects appears to have been whether they were within Democratically led states. On this, the numbers do not lie: 218 out of 223 projects that were terminated are in states with Democratic leadership. Even

in programs where awards were made across all 50 states, such as the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program, only projects in Democratically led states were cancelled—while similar projects in “red states” remain.

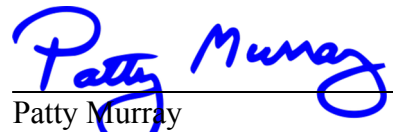
Satisfying the President’s desire for political revenge and intimidation is not a lawful basis for your actions. It also betrays the callous indifference of this administration to the impacts of its decisions on everyday Americans. These are impacts that will be felt by Americans, regardless of their political views.

For the good of our country, the rule of law, and the American people, we demand that you change course and restore the previously awarded funding.

Sincerely,



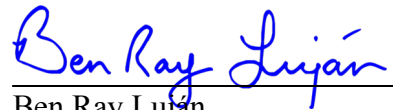
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Energy and Natural
Resources



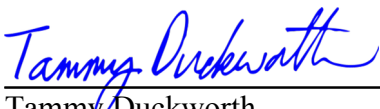
Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on
Appropriations



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



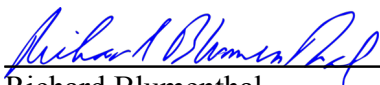
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



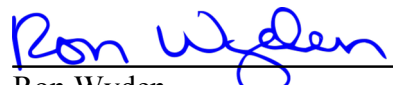
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
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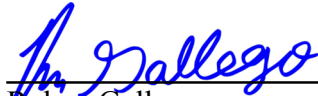
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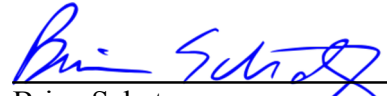
Charles E. Schumer
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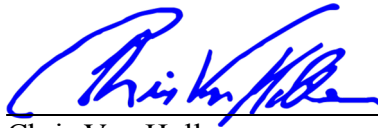
Richard J. Durbin
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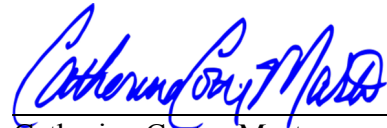
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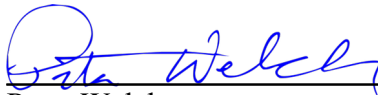
Brian Schatz
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Chris Van Hollen
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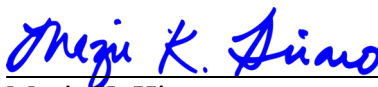
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



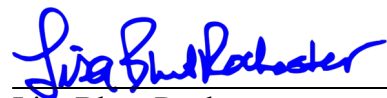
Peter Welch
United States Senator



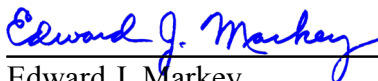
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



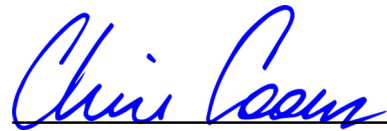
Mazie K. Hirono
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



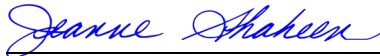
Christopher A. Coons
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Bernard Sanders
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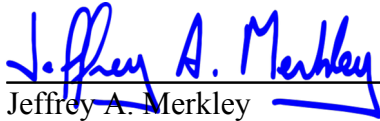
Sheldon Whitehouse
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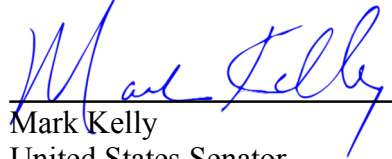
Jeanne Shaheen
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Kirsten Gillibrand
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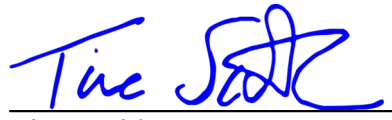
Jeffrey A. Merkley
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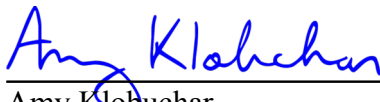
Mark Kelly
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Michael F. Bennet
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Tina Smith
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Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



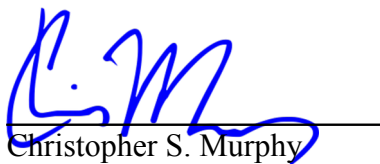
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



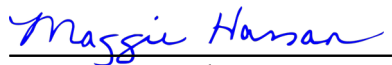
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Margaret Wood Hassan
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