

**EISNER, WALSH, ROBERTSON,
AND ERDOS NOMINATIONS**

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

TO

CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF DAVID EISNER TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY; TIMOTHY WALSH TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY; AUDREY ROBERTSON TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY; AND LANNY ERDOS TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JULY 9, 2025



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EISNER, WALSH, ROBERTSON, AND ERDOS NOMINATIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m. in Room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Mike Lee, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE LEE, U.S. SENATOR FROM UTAH

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will come to order. Good morning and welcome to all of you.

Before beginning my opening statement, I want to let my colleagues know how we will proceed today with this hearing. I also want to thank Senator Heinrich and his staff for working with us on the schedule for today's activities and to thank all Senators in advance for their participation. Today, we will be holding our eighth hearing on nominations to serve in this administration in posts under this Committee's jurisdiction, and we will hear testimony from four nominees for important positions in the government.

I thank President Trump for sending us these nominees. They are: at the Department of Energy, David Eisner, to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs; Timothy Walsh, to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management; Audrey Robertson, to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy—I think the name of the game at the Department of Energy is use the word energy as many times in these titles they possibly can—and then, at the Department of the Interior, we have Lanny Erdos, to be the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

We will now meet these highly qualified nominees and allow them each to give an opening statement and to introduce their family and friends. I will go over a brief introduction of each of them first.

Our first witness today will be David Eisner, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs. At the Department of Energy, the Office of International Affairs, or IA, is the primary coordinator for international implementation of the Department's programs, including bilateral meetings with foreign energy leaders and programs. IA works to advance America's economic and energy goals and also to counter malign influences that could threaten our

nation's energy supply. The Office leads dozens of bilateral and regional fora, advocates for American energy priorities, and is the lead office for DOE's responsibilities as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS.

Mr. Eisner is an excellent choice to handle these duties. He currently serves as Counselor to the Secretary of the Treasury, and in the first Trump administration was the Assistant Secretary for Management at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as well as serving as the Acting Treasurer of the United States. During his prior service at Treasury, Assistant Secretary Eisner helped develop the Department's \$13 billion budget, as well as engage in strategic planning, risk management, and led the implementation of various Treasury programs. He also provided the internal oversight of all Treasury bureaus, including the IRS.

In the private sector, Mr. Eisner has worked as an operating partner at Edison Parker in New York, Chairman of K1x, Inc., and as Chairman of the Board at Finality LTD. He holds a bachelor of science in accounting and government from American University and earned his juris doctorate from Boston University School of Law.

Next, we will hear from Timothy Walsh, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management. Our colleague, Senator David McCormick, will introduce Mr. Walsh because they served in uniform together, but before he does so, I will remark briefly on this position and on Mr. Walsh's impressive career.

The Office of Environmental Management supports the Department of Energy to meet the challenges of the nation's Manhattan Project and Cold War legacy responsibilities. Established in 1989, it is responsible for the cleanup of radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel and materials, and disposing of transuranic and low-level waste and contaminated soil and water, and decommissioning excess facilities. This office oversees an annual budget of more than \$8 billion, over 90 percent of which is contracted to industry. Mr. Walsh is the CEO of Confluence Companies. He graduated from the United States Military Academy. At Ranger School, he served as an Army officer with the 237th Engineer Battalion in Heilbronn, Germany and commanded a company in an engineer battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division, deploying in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, where he earned the Bronze Star for heroism.

After his military service, Mr. Walsh earned an M.S. in civil engineering and construction and management from Stanford University. He then joined Rudolph and Sletten as a project manager in California and served as VP at Mortenson, overseeing projects exceeding \$3.5 billion.

Third, we will hear testimony from Audrey Robertson, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) encompasses 11 technology offices in the Department, focusing on issues including solar, wind, hydrogen, and geothermal. EERE's research agenda is centered on emerging geothermal and hydropower technologies, biofuels, and critical minerals. Securing domestic supply chains for critical minerals and components of energy technologies, strengthening America's industrial sector, and

ensuring the reliability, security, and modernization of the electricity grid are all priorities of this office under the Trump administration.

Ms. Robertson has been an active business entrepreneur in the oil and gas field since 2018, including serving as CFO and Executive VP of Franklin Mountain Energy, LLC, co-founder of an energy-focused private equity firm in Denver, and is managing partner of Copper Trail Partners, LLC. Since 2021, Ms. Robertson has served on the Board of Directors of Liberty Energy, Inc., and has been Vice Chair of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association since 2022. She also worked as an investment banking analyst at Goldman Sachs and as a director and partner-member at Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors. Ms. Robertson holds a bachelor of science, magna cum laude, from Cornell University and a master's degree in accounting from the University of Southern California. In addition to her academic achievements, Ms. Robertson was a member of Cornell's women's varsity polo team and was named one of the Denver Business Journal's Outstanding Women in Business in 2014. She is an award-winning children's author and the proud mother of two sons.

Fourth and finally, we will hear from the honorable Lanny Erdos, to be the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement regulates active coal mining as required by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, or SMCRA, that ensures mines are restored to beneficial use after mining activity concludes and mitigates the effects of past mining through abandoned coal mine reclamation. The Office authorizes states and tribes to administer their own coal permitting and regulation activities under SMCRA, subject to oversight. The Office also helps these states and tribes by providing operational funding, training, technical assistance, and support. The President's OSM budget request of \$262 million for Fiscal Year 2026 supports the President's goals to revitalize the domestic coal industry as part of the economy's energy sector.

Mr. Erdos is returning to the position of Director after having served as Principal Deputy Director at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement beginning in 2019. Following his service, Mr. Erdos worked in reclamation and environmental compliance management at Eagle Forge Services, LLC, and is currently President of Cardinal Reclamation Company, LLC, Vice President at Eagle Summit Resources, and Vice President of Iron Eagle Land Rehabilitation. Mr. Erdos has considerable public policy and industry experience, having served in various capacities at the State of Ohio's Department of Natural Resources for 31 years, including nine years as Chief. His range of responsibilities included the management and regulation of Ohio's coal and aggregate resources, as well as management of Ohio's abandoned mine land and mine safety programs. Mr. Erdos worked extensively with agencies and departments, including the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the Office of Surface Mining. Mr. Erdos began his career as the foreman at Horizon Coal Company in Strasburg, Ohio and operator at Y&O Coal Company in Hopedale, Ohio. Mr. Erdos is a native of West

Virginia and received bipartisan support from the Senate for this position, to which he was confirmed by a voice vote in 2020.

Energy underpins everything we do—our jobs, our security, and our livelihoods. Today, we are going to evaluate nominees tasked with strengthening every link in America’s energy chain. They are being considered for positions that affect whether we can mine our own resources, whether we can reclaim what has been left behind, develop next-generation energy, and do all of this while defending our interests abroad. Each of these offices controls vast sums of taxpayer resources, each touches a critical role in America’s energy strategy, and each has, under the Biden administration, drifted from its core mission.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement exists to enforce the law, not slow-walk permits or bog down states in endless red tape. The Office of Environmental Management was created to clean up Cold War era nuclear waste, not to fund open-ended contracts with no accountability. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has lost its way, chasing pet projects and overreaching appliance mandates instead of focusing on early-stage R&D for dispatchable clean sources like geothermal and hydro. And the Office of International Affairs, it has to understand the stakes. Energy can be used as a weapon in the hands of our adversaries. We need people who know how to use American resources to strengthen our position, not apologize for it. We need nominees who are ready to streamline permitting, cut waste, rein in overreach, and advance an energy strategy that actually works for the American people.

So, today, we look forward to hearing from our nominees. Will abandoned mines be restored, or tied up in bureaucracy while states wait for Washington to act? Will nuclear waste be secured and repurposed, or left to sit while federal contractors bill overtime? Will EERE be a research hub, or a political slush fund? And will our international engagement make us stronger, or leave us more dependent? That’s the bar. That’s the mission. And we expect results.

I will now turn to Ranking Member Heinrich for his opening statement.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MARTIN HEINRICH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO**

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Chairman Lee, and welcome, Mr. Erdos, Ms. Robertson, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Eisner.

The Committee meets this morning to consider nominations to four very different offices. They range from expertise in coal mining to energy efficiency and renewable energy, from cleaning up nuclear weapon sites, to international affairs. Two things that the four jobs have in common, however, are their importance and the responsibility the officeholders will have to do well by the American people. Our task this morning, as in every confirmation hearing, is to determine how the nominees we are asked to entrust with these important offices plan to use them to do well by the American people.

Mr. Erdos has the advantage of having been nominated and confirmed to the position five years ago. And while much may have

changed in the past five years, the need for the Office of Surface Mining to protect communities and the environment during mining, to restore the land after mining, and to reclaim abandoned mine lands, remains as great as ever. Indeed, the need may be even greater, as this administration seeks to increase coal production. We need your assurance, Mr. Erdos, that you remain committed to enforcing our surface mining laws and regulations and to restoring and reclaiming abandoned mine lands. Similarly, we seek assurances from you, Mr. Walsh, that you will work diligently to clean up the environmental legacy of the Manhattan Project and Cold War weapon sites. Secretary Wright testified last month that the Department remains committed to the cleanup program, and we want to hear that commitment from you as well.

I harbor greater concerns for your offices, Ms. Robertson and Mr. Eisner. One of President Trump's first acts after being sworn in for his second term was to abandon our efforts to transition to a clean energy economy. The Department has announced plans to cut dozens of energy efficiency rules that save consumers hundreds of dollars on their utility bills annually. It has proposed a 74 percent reduction in next year's budget for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. These cuts, combined with the rollback of the clean energy tax credits in the reconciliation bill that Republicans supported, will undoubtedly drive up energy prices. The reconciliation bill alone is estimated to increase annual energy costs more than \$16 billion in 2030 and more than \$33 billion by 2035, and American families will bear those increased costs.

I need to ask you, Ms. Robertson, whether you intend to continue the Department's longstanding efforts to improve energy efficiency and develop renewable energy sources, or whether you plan to abandon those programs. I am similarly concerned by the 40 percent reduction in the Department's budget request for International Affairs, and this administration's apparent disdain for our allies and global alliances. The work of DOE's International Affairs Office is critical to maintaining U.S. competitiveness and securing economic alliances with our allies, and I will seek your assurance, Mr. Eisner, that the Department will remain committed to working with our allies on international energy issues.

I look forward to hearing from our nominees on these and other issues this morning, and I appreciate their willingness to take on these important and challenging responsibilities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator McCormick.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DAVID MCCORMICK,
U.S. SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Senator MCCORMICK. Great. Thank you, Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich. Colleagues, thanks for giving me the opportunity to introduce my friend and fellow West Point graduate, Tim Walsh, for his nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management, and congratulations to all four nominees and thank you for your willingness to serve. This is a great opportunity to really focus on a critical part of America's future.

Tim, welcome to the Committee. I am so thrilled to see you and Lisa and Alex and Natalie, and Lisa, who I have known for more than 30 years. And I first met Tim at Fort Bragg as a young lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne. In 1990, when the 82nd Airborne Division deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield, Tim was the Commander of C Company, 307th Engineering Battalion. I was his executive officer. Tim's Army career followed in the footsteps of his father, a decorated soldier who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and took his family around the world. That legacy prepared Tim well for what we would soon face in the Middle East. In February 1991, our unit rolled across the Iraqi desert in the opening hours of Desert Storm, helping to clear mines and destroy enemy munitions. And under the pressure of combat, Tim led our company with professionalism and courage, dedication to the mission, and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Earlier in his career, Tim helped manage base projects in Turkey and other NATO countries and later earned a master's degree in civil engineering and construction management from Stanford. After retiring from the Army as a Captain, Tim applied what he learned in the military to begin a successful career in the private sector, eventually founding Confluence, a major real estate developer based in Golden, Colorado. If confirmed, Tim would lead the Office of Environmental Management, which works to clean up some of the world's most dangerous radioactive sites. Given Tim's experience as an Army engineer and managing large projects in the private sector, I am confident he will bring effective leadership to this important office.

I hope my colleagues will join me today in supporting this combat veteran, this patriot, this successful businessman, and truly, one of the finest people I know. Congratulations, Tim, and I wish you all the best.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator McCormick.

The rules of the Committee require that all nominees be sworn in connection with the testimony they will provide, so if you would, each of you please rise and raise your right hand.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to provide to the Committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[Witnesses sworn.]

The CHAIRMAN. Let the record reflect that all the witnesses answered in the affirmative.

Now, before I have you begin your opening statements, I will also ask each of the witnesses three questions that are posed to all nominees appearing before the Committee.

First, will you be available to appear before the Committee and other congressional committees to represent departmental positions and respond to issues of concern to Congress?

[Witnesses respond, "yes."]

The CHAIRMAN. Second, are you aware of any personal holdings, investments, or interests that could constitute a conflict of interest or create the appearance of such conflict, should you be confirmed and assume the office to which you have been nominated by the President?

[Witnesses respond, “no.”]

The CHAIRMAN. And third, are you involved in, or do you have any assets in a blind trust?

[Witnesses respond, “no.”]

The CHAIRMAN. Let the record reflect that all the witnesses answered in the affirmative to the first question and in the negative to the two next questions.

All right, we will now hear from each of you. Mr. Eisner, we will start with you and then we will move to your left from there to Mr. Walsh, Ms. Robertson, and Mr. Erdos. Feel free to introduce any friends or family members, as you may choose, who may be here today.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF DAVID EISNER, NOMINATED TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. EISNER. Thank you, Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

I am honored to appear before you as President Trump’s nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary of International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy. I am grateful to President Trump for the honor and chance to serve my beloved country again. I am thankful to have the support of many loved ones today, both from near and far. Here today is my beautiful fiancée Rachael, my brother Ken, as well as friends and former colleagues from Treasury and my former business ventures. I am also grateful to be joined by three of my spiritual guides, Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky from Long Island, New York, Rabbi Shaul Robinson from New York City, and Rabbi Levi Shemtov from here in the District. Also, watching online is my 93-year-old mom, who is taking time out of her daily schedule of board games and activities at her home to proudly watch her beloved son appear before the U.S. Senate as a presidential nominee.

I was born and raised just outside of Pittsburgh, in a middle-class suburb with my younger brother, Ken, by my father, who was a bookkeeper, and my mother, who was a schoolteacher. From an early age, I developed a deep appreciation for public service and a strong passion for giving back. That came directly from my parents, who were both active in the Pittsburgh Jewish community and always taught us the importance of serving others. As a teenager, I was active in my synagogue’s youth service organization, and in 1975 and 1976, I had the honor to work for Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson, a towering figure in the U.S. Senate for three decades. Senator Jackson inspired my passion for public service, and I went off to law school believing I would return to Washington, D.C., for a career in public policy.

But, as life often does, mine took a different path. After law school, I was blessed with five separate careers, as a corporate attorney, investment banker, senior executive of a global investment bank, entrepreneur and startup CEO, and investor. In 2000, I co-founded *TheMarkets.com*, a financial data company backed by nine global financial institutions. One board member of that company

was someone who's name you might recognize—Steven Mnuchin. Seventeen years later, then U.S. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin contacted me and asked if I had any interest in public service. I enthusiastically said yes. Among the many roles I played as the Assistant Secretary for Management at the Treasury Department, in addition to those roles, from March 2020 until January 2021, I had the privilege of working alongside a small, dedicated team in the office every day to design and execute the largest economic rescue plan in American history. That experience, during a time of profound national challenge, was both humbling and meaningful. I was honored to receive the Hamilton Medal, Treasury's highest award, from Secretary Mnuchin in recognition of my work at Treasury.

I feel blessed to have had a successful career of more than thirty-five years in business. However, I can say without hesitation that working and serving the American people at the U.S. Treasury Department was the best job I ever had. Having previously served in government, I know the sense of purpose that public service brings. So when I was asked to return, this time to the Department of Energy, I accepted without hesitation, and would be honored to serve again, if confirmed. Even while working in the private sector, I never lost my drive to make a positive impact on my community and the betterment of others. I have dedicated significant amounts of my time to philanthropy, serving on the boards of various organizations, from my university alma mater, to prostate cancer research, to pro-Israel advocacy, to Jewish education. Through business and philanthropic work, I have been fortunate to travel to dozens of countries and sit across the table from heads of state, ministers, diplomats, and business leaders. Those experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the power of American energy and the men and women who produce it to shape our future at home and to build peace and prosperity abroad. I wholeheartedly embrace this administration's energy dominance agenda. If confirmed, I look forward to sharing this vision around the world. I believe our abundant energy resources are not only an engine of economic growth, but a strategic tool in American diplomacy.

Thank you very much for your time today. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Eisner follows:]

Testimony of David Eisner
Nominee for the Position of Assistant Secretary of International Affairs
at the U.S. Department of Energy
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
July 9, 2025

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Good morning, my name is David Eisner, and I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary of International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy. I am grateful to President Trump for the honor and the chance to serve my beloved country again.

I am thankful to have the support of many loved ones today, both near and far. Here today is my beautiful fiancée Rachael, my brother Ken, as well as friends and former colleagues from Treasury and my former business ventures. I also know that my 93-year-old mom is taking time out from her daily schedule of board games and activities to proudly watch her beloved son appear before the U.S. Senate as a presidential nominee.

I was born and raised just outside of Pittsburgh, in a middle-class suburb with my younger brother, Ken, by my father, who was a bookkeeper, and my mother, who was a schoolteacher. From an early age, I developed a deep appreciation for public service and a strong passion for giving back. That came directly from my parents, who were both active in the Pittsburgh Jewish community and always taught us the importance of serving others.

As a teenager, I was active in my synagogue's youth organization, and in 1975 and 1976, I had the honor to work for Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson – a towering figure in the U.S. Senate for three decades. Senator Jackson further inspired my passion for public service, and when I went off to law school, I did so with the full intention of returning to Washington D.C. for a career in public policy.

But, as life often does, mine took a different path. After law school, I was blessed with five different careers: corporate attorney, investment banker, senior executive of a global investment bank, entrepreneur and start-up CEO and investor.

In 2000, I co-founded *TheMarkets.com*, a financial data company backed by nine global financial institutions. One board member of that company was someone whose name you might recognize -- Steven Mnuchin. Seventeen years later, then U.S. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin contacted me and asked me if I had any interest in public service, and I enthusiastically said yes! Among the many roles I played as the Assistant Secretary for Management at the Treasury Department, from March 2020 until January 2021, I had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated team to design and execute the largest economic rescue package in American history. That experience --

during a time of profound national challenge – was both humbling and deeply meaningful. I was honored to receive the Hamilton Medal, Treasury’s highest award, from Secretary Mnuchin in recognition of that work. I feel blessed to have had a successful career of more than thirty-five years in business. However, I can say without hesitation that serving for three years as the Assistant Secretary for Management at the U.S. Department of the Treasury was the best job I have ever had.

Having previously served in government, I know the sense of purpose that public service brings. So, when I was asked to return – this time to the Department of Energy – I accepted without hesitation and would be honored to serve again if confirmed.

Even while working in the private sector, I never lost my drive to make a positive impact on my community and the betterment of others. I have dedicated significant time to philanthropy, serving on the boards of various organizations – from my university alma mater, to prostate cancer research, pro-Israel advocacy and Jewish education.

Through business and philanthropic work, I have been fortunate to travel to dozens of countries and sit across the table from heads of state, ministers, diplomats, business leaders and thought leaders. Those experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the power of American energy—and the men and women who produce it—to shape our future at home and to build peace abroad.

I wholeheartedly embrace this administration’s energy dominance agenda. If confirmed, I look forward to sharing this vision around the world. I believe our abundant energy resources are not only an engine of economic growth, but a strategic tool of American diplomacy.

Thank you for your time today and look forward to answering your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Eisner.
Mr. Walsh.

STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY WALSH, NOMINATED TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. WALSH. Thank you. Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy. I am grateful to President Trump for this nomination, and I seek to earn your trust and support today as well. This role holds significant responsibilities, and I will bring my extensive leadership and management expertise to the world's largest environmental cleanup program.

Before I begin, I would like to thank the most important person in my life, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, for the many blessings he has bestowed upon me. My amazing wife, Lisa, and two awesome children, Alex and Natalie, are here today. When Lisa and I married 35 years ago, I was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where I was a company commander in the 82nd Airborne Division. Shortly after being married, with 18-hours' notice, my unit was combat-deployed for Operation Desert Shield. As Senator McCormick mentioned, back then he was First Lieutenant McCormick. He was my XO. But little did I know that I would spend most of my first year of my marriage with Dave instead of my wife. I used to call him my roommate, tentmate, but anyways, and I am sure Lisa had no idea that as the CO's wife, her first year of marriage, as a 27-year-old, would be spent taking care of my soldiers' spouses and family members. Sacrifices are made, but love endures.

If confirmed, it will be an honor for me to serve the people of this great nation as the leader of Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy. My love for the United States and passion to serve stems from growing up overseas and realizing the exceptionalism of America. My dad was a decorated Army soldier who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. In the mid-1950s, he met my mom, who had escaped from Soviet East Germany. I am the youngest of five kids, and grew accustomed to the adventure of moving every couple of years, mostly in Europe and the Middle East. I have always had an intellectual curiosity of science and building. This drew me to West Point, where I studied civil and mechanical engineering. After graduation and Ranger School, I led combat engineers in Germany and built construction projects in Turkey during the Reagan Cold War buildup.

After the Army, with a master's degree from Stanford University, I began a career in the construction industry, building complex, advanced technology facilities for the semiconductor industry—aka chip plants—and other industries. Realizing there is a better way to deliver construction projects more efficiently, faster, and cheaper, I created Confluence Builders as a vertically integrated real estate development company. I am proud of my company's many ac-

complishments to build over \$2.5 billion of landmark real estate developments.

I recognize the significance of Environmental Management's mission, and the responsibility of addressing the legacies of the Manhattan Project and Cold War nuclear weapons development is enormous. Living only 16 miles south of the Rocky Flats in Golden, Colorado, I understand the impact these sites have on a community. Safe, efficient, and effective cleanup is critical. Rocky Flats, however, demonstrates what the Environmental Management program can achieve to safely and successfully accomplish its cleanup mission. The Manhattan Project's rapid development helped end World War II, and subsequent nuclear research contributed to preventing further use of nuclear weapons. It is now our duty to address legacy waste and ensure a safe, secure, and clean environment for all Americans. I appreciate the program is also focused on new missions, including President Trump's and Secretary Wright's goal of creating space for the Golden Era of American Energy.

My strengths are being a strong leader, building cohesive teams, and achieving complex goals. If confirmed, I would bring to Environmental Management strategic focus, planning for the entire environmental mission to ensure the most pressing risks receive maximum attention, and decisive decision-making and disciplined project management to ensure accountability and results are achieved. Finally, I will bring my collaborative spirit and approach to work with all stakeholders, including Congress, local communities, and the tribal nations. I am honored for this opportunity, and if confirmed, I would be grateful for the opportunity to lead the Environmental Management team to drive down environmental risks and enable U.S. jobs, U.S. security, and U.S. energy.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Walsh follows:]

Testimony of Tim Walsh
Nominee for the Position of Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management
at the U.S. Department of Energy
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
July 9, 2025

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy.

I am grateful to President Trump for this nomination, and I seek to earn your trust and support as well. This role holds significant responsibilities, and I will bring my extensive leadership and management expertise to the world's largest environmental cleanup program.

My amazing wife, Lisa, and our two awesome children – Alex and Natalie are here today. When Lisa and I married 35 years ago, I was stationed at Fort Bragg where I was a company commander in the 82nd Airborne Division. Shortly after being married, with 18-hours notice, my unit was combat deployed for Operation Desert Shield. U.S. Senator Dave McCormick, back then 1LT McCormick, was my XO. Little did I know that I would spend most of the first year of my marriage with Dave instead of my wife. And I'm sure Lisa had no idea, as the CO's wife, her first year of marriage would be spent taking care of my soldiers' spouses and family members. Sacrifices are made, but love endures!

If confirmed, it will be an honor for me to serve the people of this great nation as the leader of Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy. My love for the United States, and passion to serve stems from growing up overseas and realizing the exceptionalism of America. My Dad was a decorated Army soldier who fought in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. In the mid-1950s he met my mom who had escaped from Soviet East Germany. I am the youngest of five kids and grew accustomed to the adventure of moving every couple of years – mostly in Europe and the Middle East.

I've always had an intellectual curiosity of sciences and building. This drew me to West Point where I studied Civil and Mechanical Engineering. After graduation and Ranger School, I led combat engineers in Germany and built construction projects in Turkey during the Reagan Cold War build-up.

After the Army, with a master's degree from Stanford University, I began a career in the construction industry, building complex, advanced technology facilities for the semiconductor and other industries. Realizing there is a better way to deliver construction projects faster and cheaper, I created Confluence Builders as a vertically integrated real estate development company. I'm proud of my company's many accomplishments to build over 2.5 billion dollars of landmark real estate developments.

I recognize the significance of Environmental Management's mission, and the responsibility of addressing the legacies of the Manhattan Project and Cold War nuclear weapons development is enormous.

Living only 16 miles south of the Rocky Flats in Colorado, I understand the impact these sites have on a community. Safe, efficient, and effective cleanup is critical. Rocky Flats, however, demonstrates what the Environmental Management program can achieve to safely and successfully accomplish its cleanup mission. The Manhattan Project's rapid development helped end WWII, and subsequent nuclear research contributed to preventing further use of nuclear weapons. It is now our duty to address legacy waste and ensure a safe, secure, and clean environment for all Americans.

I appreciate the program is also focused on new missions, including President Trump's and Secretary Wright's goal of creating space for the Golden Era of American Energy.

My strengths are being a strong leader, building cohesive teams, and achieving complex goals. If confirmed, I would bring to Environmental Management:

- Strategic focus, planning, and leadership for the entire Environmental Management mission to ensure the most pressing risks receive maximum attention.
- Decisive decision-making and disciplined project management to ensure accountability and results are achieved.
- Finally, I will bring my collaborative approach to work with all stakeholders, including Congress, local communities and the Tribal Nations.

I am honored for this opportunity and if confirmed I would be grateful for the opportunity to lead the Environmental Management team to drive down environmental risks and enable U.S. jobs, U.S. energy, and U.S. security.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Walsh.
Ms. Robertson.

STATEMENT OF AUDREY ROBERTSON, NOMINATED TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Ms. ROBERTSON. Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. First, I would like to thank President Trump for his steadfast leadership during this pivotal time in America and for the trust and confidence placed in me with his nomination. This office plays a critical role in the Department of Energy and the tools we will develop as a nation to meet today and tomorrow's energy demands. President Trump's nomination deeply humbles me, and if I have the honor of being confirmed, serving our country and leading this office will be the greatest honor of my life.

I first want to thank my parents, Dr. Scott and Dr. Karen Robertson, and my brother, Andrew Robertson, for being here today and always believing in me. I also want to thank my incredible fiancé, retired Green Beret and Silver Star recipient, Nathan Buelow, as well as some of my closest friends and partners who are here from all over the country. And lastly, I want to thank my sons, William and Wyatt. Only William can be here today. Wyatt is backpacking through the Great Rocky Mountains and has no idea this hearing is taking place. He will have to watch it later.

I have lived a life that is only possible in the United States of America. I grew up in Arizona. I went on to earn a bachelor of science in applied economics from Cornell University, followed by a master's degree in accounting from the University of Southern California. My early career in the corporate world was foundational to my knowledge of energy systems, energy infrastructure, and the complex role of companies, markets, banks and governments in the production and distribution of energy. Over time, I developed my own ideas about energy and how it could be produced more efficiently and with less risk. About 10 years ago, I left the comfort of my corporate job for an unpredictable life as an entrepreneur. Several businesses and partnerships followed. One such business I started in 2018 when I co-founded an oil and gas company. As a single mom raising two young boys in suburban Denver, I was not a stereotypical oil and gas entrepreneur. However, successfully producing energy has nothing to do with stereotypes. Energy is about numbers and science, two areas where I am very comfortable. To me, the numbers added up and the science was sound. This was a risk worth taking, and I risked everything. We grew this business from non-producing leases in beautiful Southeast New Mexico into one of the largest private oil companies in America. I am proud of the safe and reliable energy we produced and the hundreds of great Americans who worked hard alongside us as we developed not only oil and gas resources in New Mexico, but we built roads, pipelines, and even a microgrid.

This was not my only entrepreneurial energy endeavor. In my home State of Colorado, I partnered with a vertically integrated operator of utility-scale solar to transform an agricultural property outside of Fort Collins into the largest utility-scale solar facility in the state. This 250-megawatt project will provide power to tens of thousands of homes in northern Colorado. As an investor and board member, I have dedicated time and resources to numerous next-generation energy technologies, including small modular nuclear, next-generation geothermal, and advanced sodium-ion batteries. Advancing technologies like these will be critical to meeting our nation's growing power demands. President Trump has made it clear that we must—and I believe we will—unleash American energy to protect our nation and its future. But energy is a complex subject, and I believe it is not only inaccurate, but incredibly disingenuous to apply labels like “Clean Energy” and “Dirty Energy.” There is only energy, and every source and form of energy has trade-offs. I support all forms of reliable, affordable, and secure energy.

If I am so fortunate to be confirmed, I will provide steady leadership to this office and make science-based, common-sense decisions that will benefit all Americans. If confirmed, it will be a privilege to work closely with our national labs, especially the National Renewable Energy Lab in my home State of Colorado. I am a newcomer to Washington and a novice to politics. If confirmed, I also ask for a close partnership with this Committee as we work towards an energy-abundant America.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Robertson follows:]

Testimony of Audrey Robertson
Nominee for the Position of Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
at the U.S. Department of Energy
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
July 9, 2025

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

First, I want to thank President Trump for his steadfast leadership during this pivotal time in America and for the trust and confidence placed in me with his nomination. This office plays a critical role in the Department of Energy and the tools we will develop as a nation to meet today and tomorrow's energy demands. President Trump's nomination deeply humbles me, and if I have the honor of being confirmed, serving our country and leading this office will be the honor of my life.

I want to thank my parents, Dr. Scott and Dr. Karen Robertson, and my brother Andrew Robertson for being here today and for always believing in me. I want to thank my incredible fiancé, retired Green Beret and silver star recipient, Nathan Buelow, as well as my closest friends, partners and colleagues from all over the country. Lastly, I want to thank my sons, William and Wyatt. Only William can be here today; Wyatt is backpacking through the Great Rocky Mountains and has no idea this hearing is taking place today.

I have lived a life that is only possible in the United States. I grew up in Arizona and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics from Cornell University and my Master's Degree in Accounting from the University of Southern California. My early career in the corporate world was foundational to my knowledge of energy systems, energy infrastructure and the complex role of companies, markets, banks and governments in the production and distribution of energy.

Over time, I developed my own ideas about energy and how it could be produced more efficiently and with less risk. About 10 years ago, I left the comfort of the corporate world for the unpredictable life of an entrepreneur. Several businesses and partnerships followed.

One such business started in 2018 when I co-founded an oil and gas company. As a single Mom raising two young boys in suburban Denver, I was not a stereotypical oil and gas entrepreneur. However, successfully producing energy has nothing to do with stereotypes; energy is about numbers and science, two arenas where I am very comfortable. To me, the numbers added up and the science was sound; this was a risk worth taking and I risked everything.

We grew this business from non-producing leases in Southeast New Mexico into one of the largest private oil companies in America. I am proud of the safe and reliable energy we produced and the hundreds of great Americans who worked hard alongside us as we developed not only oil and gas resources, but also roads, pipelines, and even a microgrid.

This was not my only entrepreneurial energy endeavor. In my home State of Colorado, I partnered with a vertically integrated operator of utility-scale solar to transform an agricultural property outside of Fort Collins into the largest utility-scale solar facility in the State. This 250-megawatt project will provide power to tens of thousands of homes in Northern Colorado.

As an investor and board member, I have dedicated time and resources to numerous next-generation energy technologies, including small modular nuclear, next-generation geothermal, and advanced sodium-ion batteries. Advancing technologies like these will be critical to meet our nation's growing power demands. President Trump has made it clear that we must, and we will, unleash American energy to protect our Nation and its future. I wholeheartedly agree with him.

Energy is a complex subject, and I believe simplistic and disingenuous to apply labels like "Clean Energy" and "Dirty Energy"; there is only energy, and every source and form of energy has tradeoffs. I support all forms of reliable, affordable and secure energy.

If I am so fortunate to be confirmed, I will provide steady leadership to this office and make science-based decisions that benefit all Americans. If confirmed, it will be a privilege to work closely with our National Labs, especially the National Renewable Energy Lab in my home State of Colorado.

I am a newcomer to Washington and to Politics. If confirmed, I also ask for a close partnership with this committee as we all work towards an energy-abundant America.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Erdos.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LANNY ERDOS, NOMINATED TO BE THE
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMA-
TION AND ENFORCEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Mr. ERDOS. Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee for the position of Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, or OSM. I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Burgum for their confidence in me. I am excited to be here today to share with you my vision for OSM. I appreciate the opportunity to provide insight into my background, give you an idea about where I come from, and provide a snapshot into my professional career in the public and private sectors.

If confirmed, my nearly 35 years of experience in public service at the Department of the Interior and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Ohio DNR) have prepared me well for the position of Director at OSM. Additionally, my recent time spent in the private sector as an environmental and reclamation manager has given me a unique 360-degree perspective of the challenges facing the coal industry. As a former Director at OSM, I have working knowledge and specific experience in every aspect of OSM's mission, and as a former Chief at the Ohio DNR, where I represented Ohio on the Interstate Mining Compact Commission for more than a decade, I developed both state and federal relationships across the country that have proven beneficial throughout my career.

Most recently, I have worked in the mining industry as President and Vice President for two reclamation companies and also Vice President for environmental compliance for all the associated companies. I am responsible for reclamation and remediation of mining permits in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, and Alabama. At Cardinal Reclamation, one of the reclamation companies that I manage, we have made significant reclamation and remediation progress over the past five years. In Kentucky, Cardinal stepped up to the plate to assist the people of the Commonwealth when permits, affected by another permittee, were not properly reclaimed. Today, many of those permits (60-plus) have been fully reclaimed and returned to a productive post-mining land use.

As a former Director at OSM, we made important inroads in improving relationships with the states, the tribes (where OSM is the primary regulator), and the mining industry. Those relationships were strained under the previous administration. I will work to establish a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship that recognizes the important role that the states play relative to regulation within their borders and just as importantly recognizes the importance of the energy that is provided by our coal industry. At the Ohio DNR, I began my career as an environmental technician. I was soon promoted to Reclamation Inspector, where for seven years I was responsible for inspections associated with coal and industrial mineral mining. I later transferred to the abandoned mine land program, or AML, as a design specialist. Working under the supervision of a registered professional engineer, I designed AML remediation projects, such as highwall backfills, surface subsidence

caused by pre-law underground mining, coal refuse reclamation projects, and stream restoration, to name just a few. I was also a Permitting Manager, where my responsibilities included oversight of all coal and industrial mineral mining applications.

Later, I was promoted to Deputy Chief responsible for managing the state's coal, industrial minerals, and mine safety programs. My responsibilities included statewide management of nearly a thousand permits, and the protection, training, and certification of the state's mining workforce. Three years later, I was promoted to Chief. I maintained my Deputy Chief responsibilities and assumed management of the AML program. As Chief, I worked with federal partners, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Surface Mining, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, to name just a few.

From a personal perspective, I come from a very strong-willed, blue-collar background where family comes first. From a very young age, my mother and father instilled in my brother, sister, and me the lesson that hard work is important. They led by example and taught us this lesson through their own hard work. My father worked for nearly 30 years in an underground coal mine. And although it was an incredibly difficult job, he enjoyed it, as well as the life it provided his family. My mother worked as a cook at the local school and later worked in the county court system. They both worked hard to support their family, and seeing that day after day stuck with me.

My wife, Rhonda, of 37 years, and I have tried to instill much of the same in our children, Courtney and Jordan. I have tremendous respect for the men and the women who mine the coal that helps to supply the country's energy needs. An energy need that will only continue to grow in the coming years. But I also understand the need to protect our land and water. Striking that environmental balance, as I have tried to do throughout my career, ensures the protection of our natural resources while also recognizing the ever-increasing energy consumption of the country. If confirmed, it would be an honor to serve the citizens of this great country as Director of the Office of Surface Mining.

Thank you for today's opportunity. I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Erdos follows:]

**Statement of Lanny E. Erdos
Nominee for the Position of Director
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
United States Department of the Interior
Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate**

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee for the position of Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM). I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Burgum for their confidence in me. I am excited to be here today to share with you my vision for OSM.

I appreciate the opportunity today to provide insight into my background, give you an idea about where I come from, and provide a snapshot into my professional career in the public and private sectors.

If confirmed, my nearly 35 years of experience in public service at the Department of the Interior and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Ohio DNR) has prepared me well for the position of Director of OSM. Additionally, my recent time spent in the private sector as an Environmental and Reclamation manager has given me a unique 360-degree perspective of the challenges facing the coal industry.

As a former Director at OSM, I have working knowledge and specific experience in every aspect of OSM's mission, and as a former Chief at the Ohio DNR where I represented Ohio on the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) for more than a decade, I developed both state and federal relationships across the country that have proven beneficial throughout my career.

The IMCC is a multi-state governmental organization supporting the states related to environmental protection and the mine safety interests of its member states.

Most recently, I have worked in the mining industry as President/Vice President (VP) for two reclamation companies and VP for environmental compliance for all the associated companies. I am responsible for reclamation and remediation of mining permits in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and Alabama.

At Cardinal Reclamation (one of the reclamation companies that I manage), we have made significant reclamation and remediation progress over the past five years. In Kentucky, Cardinal stepped up to the plate to assist the people of the Commonwealth when permits, affected by another permittee, were not properly reclaimed. Today, many of those permits (60+) have been fully reclaimed and returned to a productive post-mining landuse.

Here are just a few of the accomplishments of Cardinal Reclamation in Kentucky:

- *Reduced the number of permits from 106 to 41 by achieving final reclamation*
- *Eliminated over 40,000 linear feet of highwall.*
- *Planted more than a half-million trees.*
- *Remediated/corrected six long-term water treatment sites.*
- *Corrected and brought into compliance 135 outstanding Notices of Violations (NOVs) and 114 Cessation Orders (CO) associated prior ownership of the permits.*
- *Invested over \$55 million dollars in reclamation and remediation associated with the previous ownership of the permits.*

As a former Director at OSM, we made important in-roads in improving relationships with the states, the tribes (where OSM is the primary regulator) and the mining industry. Those relationships were strained under the previous administration. I will work to establish a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship that recognizes the important role that the states play relative to regulation within their borders and just as importantly recognizes the importance of the energy that is provided by our coal industry.

At the Ohio DNR, I began my career as an environmental technician. I was soon promoted to Reclamation Inspector, where for seven years I was responsible for inspections associated with coal and industrial mineral mining.

My responsibilities included ensuring that the coal operator was following the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), and inspection of mining operations and reclamation activities.

I later transferred to the abandoned mine land program (or AML) as a design specialist. Working under the supervision of a registered professional engineer, I designed AML remediation projects, such as highwall backfills, surface subsidence caused by pre-law underground mining, coal refuse reclamation projects, and stream restoration to name a few. I was also a Permitting Manager where my responsibilities included oversight of all coal and industrial mineral mining applications. Later, I was promoted to Deputy Chief responsible for managing the State's coal, industrial minerals and mine safety programs. My responsibilities included statewide management of nearly 1000 permits, and the protection, training and certification of the State's mining workforce. Three years later, I was promoted to Chief. I maintained my Deputy Chief responsibilities and assumed management of the AML program. As Chief, I worked with federal partners, such as the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Surface Mining, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, just to name a few.

From a personal perspective, I come from a very strong-willed, blue-collar background where family comes first. From a very young age, my mother and father instilled in my brother, sister and me the lesson that hard work is important. They led by example and taught us this lesson through their own hard work. My father worked for nearly 30 years in an underground coal mine. Although it was an incredibly difficult job, he enjoyed it, as well as the life it provided his family. My mother worked as a cook at the local school and later worked in the county court system. They both worked hard to support their family and seeing that day after day stuck with me. My wife Rhonda and I have tried to instill much of the same in our children, Courtney and Jordan.

I have tremendous respect for the men and women who mine the coal that helps to supply the country's energy needs. An energy need that will only continue to grow in the coming years. But I also understand the need to protect our land and water. Striking that environmental balance, as I have tried to do throughout my career, ensures the protection of our natural resources while also recognizing the ever-increasing energy consumption of the country.

If confirmed, it would be an honor to serve the citizens of this great country as Director of the Office of Surface Mining. Thank you for today's opportunity. I look forward to answering your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

We will now proceed to five-minute rounds of questions. I will ask the first round, followed by Senator Heinrich, and then we will alternate between Republicans and Democrats after that in just a moment.

All right, Mr. Erdos, I would like to start with you, if that is all right.

Last time you were before this Committee, and that was regarding your nomination to be the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation Enforcement, I asked you about permitting deadlines for coal mines. And at that point—this was in 2019—you said you were looking to reduce the timelines for permitting from six to ten years down to two or less years. This would be a really welcome set of news if we could do that, including and especially for mines in Utah, some of which have spent literally decades in a sort of permitting purgatory process. So why is certainty, in your opinion, so important when it comes to the permitting process, especially for mines and for miners?

Mr. ERDOS. Well, certainly, predictability is something the industry has to have. They have to know how to get from Point A to Point B. And permitting has been an issue. So I think we are talking about NEPA reviews on coal—on federal coal—and that's what I was referring to back in 2019. So I think, obviously, progress has been made over the last two to three months. Two or three have been—OSM has approved the EIS and record of decision. So the short answer is predictability. The industry needs predictability, and the way you get that is—the way you achieve that is by having a permitting system that functions for everyone—it functions for the states, it functions for the Federal Government, and for the operator.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Walsh, the Department of Energy currently holds about 30 metric tons of defense plutonium that it plans to dilute and then dispose of at the WIPP facility in New Mexico. This strategy is projected to take over 30 years and to cost about \$20 billion. Now, think about it, we are spending \$20 billion to dispose of this valuable asset that was produced at taxpayer expense. I don't know what the exact figures are, but I am willing to guess that in present day dollars it costs tens of billions of dollars to create it.

One of President Trump's recent executive orders directs the Department to end the dilute and dispose strategy and establish a program to process the plutonium into a form that can be fabricated into fuel for advanced nuclear reactors. This would allow the plutonium to be used as a resource to advance nuclear technology leadership in the world, while still accomplishing our non-proliferation objectives, which I think were part of what they had in mind when they started this program. Do you agree that the surplus plutonium should be used to support the commercial nuclear industry? And if confirmed, will you work with the Secretary and with NNSA to end the dilute and dispose program and carry out President Trump's executive order?

Mr. WALSH. Yes, I will. As I understand it, plutonium can be mixed with other materials so that it isn't—essentially, to proliferation proof it, and as you know, to fuel the future of AI so America

can be a leader with the data centers located here, we need energy from every source. And small modular reactors and all nuclear reactors, for that matter, their limiting factor right now is fuel—enriched uranium—which we're not doing here in the United States, and I think it ends in 2028. So we need to bring all dense energy sources like plutonium, and I believe NNSA is also working on a program right now where we can use that.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Eisner, the past administration relied on the Department of Energy's International Affairs Office to broker deals on climate cooperation in the development of more expensive and unreliable energy resources. If confirmed, how do you plan to reorient the office to focus on American energy dominance and energy security for our allies?

Mr. EISNER. Mr. Chairman, as I stated in my opening remarks, it was an honor for me to serve at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in the previous Trump administration. In that role, I had the honor to work with several career federal employees, two of whom are here with me today. Two things that I think really marked my experience with these individuals was their patriotism and their respect that elections have consequences. Despite what I was sure was a very wide range of political views among those whom I worked with, we operated under a very basic understanding that the work that we were doing was not red and it was not blue. It was red, white, and blue. And we used that approach to motivate the people who worked with me, because at the end of the day, it really does come down to leadership. We were able to effectuate the policies and the programs of the previous Trump administration without flaw, I would say.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

And finally, Ms. Robertson, as geothermal technology has continued to advance, energy analysts have become increasingly bullish and appropriately very excited about its viability to supply sustained power. As I am sure you are aware, I introduced bipartisan legislation with Ranking Member Heinrich to accelerate the adoption of geothermal technology. I included provisions of that legislation in the energy title of the One Big Beautiful Bill, but unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues used the Byrd Rule to strip those provisions out of that bill, so those weren't able to make it into law, even though they could have under that circumstance. Nonetheless, given the circumstances, we must to continue to focus on finding ways to develop this energy resource.

Will you commit, if confirmed, to assisting the Secretary to ensure that product classes are used to protect features—I'm sorry, I have blended two different questions there. What can you tell us about the importance of geothermal energy, and what can we do from a legal and regulatory standpoint to help advance that technology?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Thank you, Chairman Lee, for that question.

Geothermal is undoubtedly one of the most exciting resources that can create stable, baseload power in this country between—the three geothermal powerhouses are right in front of me, with Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico really leading the way. Geothermal is so exciting and rightly a focus of both Secretary Wright and

President Trump because, unlike many other non fossil-based energy sources, geothermal has the potential to provide stable, baseload power, which, as we look at the power demands in the United States over the next five, ten, and twenty years, we are in a situation we haven't been in as a country before. We have had relatively stable electricity demand over the years, relatively stable and increasing, obviously, power demand, but with the development of supercomputers and AI, we need to drastically, significantly ramp-up our baseload power, and geothermal provides one of the most exciting avenues to do that.

I am sure Senator Heinrich is very familiar with the XGS Energy and Meta project in New Mexico that was announced. This is new geothermal technology. That particular project's pipe-in-pipe technology that is free from using additional water in the process, you know, programs like those and many of the others being developed at national labs across the country are going to be a more sustainable solution to step function changes in how we deliver power.

The CHAIRMAN. Great. Thank you very much.

Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Chairman.

I want to start just by addressing something you said, Mr. Walsh, and this is not to quibble with you, but I want to point out that in New Mexico we actually produce enriched uranium, and it supplies roughly 25 to 30 percent of the demand in the country. I think that is a good example of what we should be expanding around the country in order to meet additional demand.

I am going to start my questions with you, Ms. Robertson, and I was glad to hear your description of some of the solar projects that you executed in Colorado. I have been looking closely at NERC's 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment in Texas. Texas added seven gigawatts of solar power in 2024—nearly seven and a half gigawatts of battery storage in 2024 alone—which is helping the state meet growing electricity demand from AI and data centers and some of the things that you have articulated. As a result of those additional capacities, the risk of power emergencies has dropped to just three percent now as opposed to 15 percent a little over a year ago.

So Ms. Robertson, do you agree that in the face of rising demand, that the grid requires more, not less affordable, reliable, energy?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Oh, undoubtedly, the grid demands, and we need to deliver more reliable, affordable, secure energy. Are you specifically asking about best systems or solar systems?

Senator HEINRICH. So looking at Texas, would you agree that deploying both energy storage in tandem with renewable energy technologies can actually increase grid reliability, hold prices down, and add new generation sources?

Ms. ROBERTSON. It certainly has the capability to do that. Texas still relies primarily on natural gas as its baseload power, and that has to be the baseload and the maximum, because solar plus batteries can provide a number of benefits, both as a large scale and a small scale, but we have yet to see the five- to ten-year implications of these large battery systems, which, unfortunately, or ironically, the environments that are wonderful for solar, like Texas, are not great for batteries. And so, battery degradation and the

lifetime of a utility-scale battery is something that is going to be a further effort of my Department, if I am so fortunate to be confirmed. But those technologies have yet to play out.

Senator HEINRICH. I would beg to differ. In New Mexico, we were an early adopter of grid-scale storage. At this point in my personal grid in the Albuquerque area, we're not only 35 percent solar, seven percent nuclear, 15 percent wind, but using 15 percent battery storage. We have been able for a number of years now to maintain a high level of reliability—and not just a high level of reliability, but a low retail cost, which is the other thing that American consumers care about. I pay about 10.8 cents. Now, I rarely pay that because I have solar on my roof at a scale that I don't get an electric bill most months, but when I do, I pay 10.8 cents, which is, if you look at the country as a whole, much lower than what you see in the Midwest and the East.

Mr. Walsh, the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in New Mexico is the sole, as you know, only geological repository licensed to store transuranic radioactive waste. It is one of three globally. We are currently working to refurbish and repair parts of the lift system that is used to bring up mined salt out of the ground. Two other lifts, one used for transporting TRU waste, the other used for emergency purposes, are in need of repair and replacement.

So talk to me a little bit. I know you are familiar with that facility. It is our only facility that serves this purpose. Describe to the Committee your commitment to overseeing the swift construction and rehabilitation of the elevator systems at the WIPP facility.

Mr. WALSH. Yes, thank you, Senator Heinrich, for that question.

I am very familiar with the WIPP and its importance to Environmental Management's cleanup across the DOE's complex. And as you mentioned, the lift system, I think, dates back to the early 1900s. It came from a mine in Colorado. So, it's absolutely in need of repair, and I would be happy to look into that. As you know, I am not confirmed yet, so I haven't looked at the details of the current budget, but I will ensure, because it is such an important facility to our mission, that we will make sure we have a serviceable lift system.

Senator HEINRICH. I look forward to following up with you, Mr. Walsh.

Mr. WALSH. Thank you.

Senator HEINRICH. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Justice, you are up next.

Senator JUSTICE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member. Thank all of you all for coming. I mean, really and truly, when it really boils right down to it, you are great witnesses, you are great nominees, and really and truly, I am anxious to be able to see you confirmed because I know you'll do fabulous work. That's all there is to it.

I welcome your families. I am extremely impressed with just this—your acknowledgement of God in your life. I mean, it is absolutely just what we should all be doing, in my opinion, all the time because the blessings are unbelievable. You know, we see the tragedies all across our nation. We see what's going on in Texas right now, and it just jerks your heart out. I mean, that's just all there

is to it. But, and please, God above, some way, somehow, you know, look after those folks.

But I would just tell you just this—you know, I am, for all practical purposes, the new kid in town, but I have been an energy kid for a long, long, long time. And really and truly, it is an honor beyond belief to be on this Committee. And why would you think that? I mean, really and truly, I have tons to do in my life, and why would that be such an unbelievable honor for me? And it's simply just this—I have said this until I am blue-green—energy is everything. Energy is everything. It's in every part of every single thing that we do. And our country today needs you like you can't imagine. Every single last bit of you, we need you.

And so, you know, when I was the Governor, I was the Governor of West Virginia and I had the honor to be that for eight years. And I embraced all the energy forms because I knew what was coming. Right around the corner here we are going to have a meltdown on energy in this country. And if we don't watch out, we are going to be in a real mess. And then, we are going to have to make decisions. We are going to need to decide where we can have that, but we can't have this. And America doesn't normally do that. And if we can't have this, we are going to be at a real disadvantage that could be a national defense disadvantage or whatever it may be.

Now, the only other tidbit I would say about embracing all is, let's just have a fair playing field. I mean, for God's sakes-a-livin', let's not give one form, you know, so many benefits and perks and everything and take away from another. And please, to God above, let's quit thinking of coal as a bad word. Our coal miners work so hard. And Mr. Erdos, you know, just talked about his dad—30 years in the coal mines and everything in an underground mine. Right at this moment, right this very second, there are people that are thousands and thousands of feet underground in coal seams where they cannot hardly sit up, and in no way they could stand up. They may be in 40 inches of coal, thousands of feet underground, for all of us, for absolutely all of us. They're good people. They're family people. We need them. My good Lord above, we need them today.

So, let's quit thinking and blowing our own legs off and letting the world on some righteous movement, you know, that we are going to blow our own legs off and have China build a coal-fired power plant every other day. It's ridiculous. It's totally ridiculous. I would tell all of you just this: we are so lucky to have you. Your experience is off the chart. Your service is off the chart, and I am very, very anxious to work with you in every way.

I really only have one question, and it came to me from the Coal Association, and so this is for Mr. Erdos. And I wish you would call me Jim. I would like to call all of you by your first names, Lanny, or whatever it may be. And so, but with all that being said, the question was just this: In West Virginia—this is from the Coal Association and Chris, this is from Chris Hamilton. He's a good guy and he is asking this question and he wanted me to ask it.

In West Virginia—West Virginia has nine program amendments pending approval at OSM today. The oldest is 16 years old. And in most of these cases, the state rules, we have complied exactly with the language of the Office of Surface Mining. So my question

is real quick. Will you just look? Will you just try to help and look, because we need you?

Mr. ERDOS. Thank you for the question, Senator. Yes, absolutely, I will. Program amendments are a problem. It has been a problem for 10 to 15 years at OSM. And I know Chris very, very well. And I am familiar with some of those program amendments. So one of the things we will do, if I am fortunate enough to get confirmed, I will be briefed by staff, day one, relative to program amendments. It's important to me too. Ohio has one probably 12 years old that has been sitting there.

So there are things that we need to do at OSM to fix that, and it can be fixed, and we were working on that under the previous administration, the Trump administration, when I was there. So we will do those things and we will get that backlog down. And I absolutely will look at those.

Senator JUSTICE. Thank you. And I'm sorry that you have to put up with Chris.

Mr. ERDOS. He is a great guy. Like you said, he is a great guy. [Laughter.]

Senator JUSTICE. Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hickenlooper.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks to each of you for being here at a really challenging time for energy in our country.

Ms. Robertson, let me just say that I always appreciate people with a strong athletic background, but if you can be that good in water polo, that has to be a remarkable testament to your endurance and your ability to put up with all this rigmarole, but you are going into a really tough position, if confirmed. I know NREL, Colorado's renewable energy lab, is truly a world-class hub of reliable energy and innovation. It's a major employer in Colorado, but it adds real value, yet the President's budget appears to want to cut over half the staff, and there is some shifting of funds that, to some, appears unlawful. I have a lawyer in our office that feels that it is unlawful. I think there are a lot of lawyers that are looking at that. It doesn't appear to me that you can just reassign experts and fill in the gaps.

So I guess my first question is, are you willing to commit to preventing, to the best of your capability, significant staff cuts at NREL and to really make sure we maintain those research capabilities?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Senator Hickenlooper, thank you for the question, and I agree with you that NREL is an extraordinary hub of innovation and that the best tools we are going to have to make a stronger, better, more energized America are going to come through innovation. It's not just going to come from, you know, additional subsidies. It's going to come from big, innovative changes to the way we do things and the way we create energy. You asked a few specific questions, and let me try and answer them. I have not been in the Department of Energy. I am still living in Colorado and riding horses with my kids and hanging out for the summer, and at the point where I hopefully am confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on a number of the matters that you brought up regarding the budget, but I am not informed at this point in time

or in a position where I can comment on that. I will tell you that I always follow the law, and I intend to follow the law, the advice of counsel, and if I am so fortunate to be confirmed, hold this office with the dignity that it deserves, and from a legal perspective, always do the right thing.

As it relates to staff cuts at EERE or NREL, you are a business owner, you have been a business owner, and a mayor and a Governor, and thank you for that. I can't comment until I get in to see what the situation is, but I can commit to be an advocate for the great men and women working across the Department of Energy in the areas where I will have responsibility, if confirmed, especially at NREL, where we have some of the best scientists in the world working to solve the world's biggest problems.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Well, I couldn't agree more, and I appreciate that. Well spoken. I will just put in there, I mean, we are going to see this massive surge in demand that I think each of you have recognized and described, and it's hard to imagine bringing online more natural gas, more coal, more almost anything in the short term in the next five years, and yet we do have a huge inventory of solar, but electricity can be generated from wind and solar, increasingly geothermal, as you have all recognized. I think 95 percent of all the projects in the queue are either, you know, solar, wind, or storage. And I would like to ask each of you just to, because you each—well, maybe not the mining reclamation, I will pass on that. Although, I am—I will not have time to ask questions on the mining. I will come back for a second round of questions on that and get to that.

But 95 percent of the energy that's available is solar, wind, and batteries. Do you think we should prioritize that and really push that through? And I am going to start with Ms. Robertson.

Ms. ROBERTSON. Senator Hickenlooper, thank you for the question, and it is the question. I mean, a large-scale data center consumes the same amount of electricity as two million homes. And we will have to produce a lot of electrons in order to meet that demand. But the question of how do we prioritize it? We have to prioritize reliable, secure, and affordable power in that equation. I think you mentioned NREL earlier, grid modernization, new technologies to help reduce the loss of electricity within the process. I do believe we will be able to bring online very successful, innovative energy sources, like geothermal, hopefully small modular nuclear, in a much shorter period of time than previously envisioned, even 12 months ago.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Right, well, I am out of time, but in the meantime, we are going to have some real pressure on us for these five years before we get to the small nuclear and being able to scale up some of those other things. And I think, you know, the budget that has been put out there is cutting the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy 62 percent below 2019 levels. So long before President Biden was in office, that budget was much more robust than it is now. So, you are probably going to have to elbow your way in to some making sure that those funds are not all eliminated because you are going to need some of that money, I think. I yield back to the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Great, thank you.

All right, let's go ahead and begin our second round.

Mr. Erdos, I would like to start the second round with you. You know, you began your career as an environmental technician reviewing mine data and maps for accuracy. Since then, you have had years of experience working with environmental agencies and related stakeholders, as well as on abandoned mine lands (AML)—I am always cautious when I say mine lands to not say land mines because it turns out they mean very different things—reclamation efforts, and funding disbursement. How does the coal industry contribute to AML funding and remediation efforts?

Mr. ERDOS. Well, there are two streams of funds that go into AML. One is fee-based. It's how the industry contributes. So currently, I believe it's 22.4 cents for surface coal that's not lignite, 9.6 cents for underground coal not lignite, and I want to say 6.4 cents for lignite coal. So it's based on tonnage produced, and they pay that fee on that tonnage. It goes into that particular pool of money for the AML program. And then you have the IJJA, which is a whole different issue. So you have those two streams.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Ms. Robertson, let's talk about appliance regulations. There are a series of regulations that are implemented and enforced by the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Some of these regulations, one might say, impose pretty costly burdens on all Americans and they certainly reduce market choices. Some would say that in many instances they have, in the name of efficiency, just produced products that don't work as well and that end up having to be used two or three cycles at a time instead of one, perhaps resulting in no net energy savings at all, but making appliances less reliable, harder to use, more expensive, and more difficult to repair, and they affect almost all appliances in American homes, from refrigerators, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers. Now, the process rule and its product class protections, which allow for separate regulations for different product features, were overwhelmingly ignored by the previous administration, and this has stopped the development of helpful features on appliances and essentially killed certain appliances or household goods, like the incandescent lightbulb, which itself is a different thing. Sure, we have other types of lightbulbs available, but for the most part, you can't get incandescent lightbulbs anymore, and that is a different product, and sometimes you need those.

And so, this is somewhat concerning. Will you commit, if confirmed, to assisting the Secretary to ensure that product classes are used to protect features on appliances that are important to American consumers?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Chairman Lee, thank you for that important question. And absolutely, I think I am here—and I believe my panelists here alongside me—we are here because we love America and we love Americans, and putting burdensome, costly regulations in place that don't have a net benefit to individual Americans can price people out of the American dream, depending on appliances, building standards. It's an area within the EERE that I am very much looking forward to working with, and I look forward to working with you and your staff on any specific issues or things that we should be advancing.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Erdos, let's go back to you for a moment. Can you speak to the relationship between states with primacy under SMCRA and OSM?

Mr. ERDOS. Thank you for the question, Senator. Certainly. So there are 24 states that currently have primacy, or they have approved state programs. They are the primary regulators within their borders. OSM is an oversight program relative to those states. OSM is the primary regulator on Indian tribes, and there are a few others where OSM has a federal program, but only one actually produces coal, and that is Tennessee. The primacy states, within their borders, they are the primary regulators. OSM is an oversight program. It's a partnership, really, but deference should be given to the states, and it is given to the states.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think the 10-day notice rule overwrote the authority of the state mining offices?

Mr. ERDOS. Somewhat, it did. The 2020 and the 2024 rules were significantly different. So the 2020 rule required OSM to work with the states. So if they received a citizen complaint, they were required to coordinate with the state prior to acting on that citizen complaint, which makes a lot of sense. I am a state guy. I come from a state, I worked there for 31 years, and I was on the other end of those 10-day notices. So it makes sense for OSM to work with the state and gather as much information as they can prior to acting on that. So the 2024 rule took that away, which is pretty significant to me.

So to answer your question, I think, to some extent, it did.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Murkowski, you are up to bat.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you for your willingness to step forward in these important positions. We appreciate that.

Ms. Robertson, I wanted to ask a question of you first here. I come from a state where, when we say all-of-the-above energy policy, we really mean it, not because it's a good catchword, but because we are islanded. This huge state, our energy system is all islanded in the sense that we have very little when it comes to the grid beyond the Railbelt there. So people think about Alaska as oil and gas. It's great. It's important. Significant for us. It's important for the country and the world. But we can't do it without also tapping into those resources that happen to be right there where that community is. And so, that means a little bit of solar. It means a little bit of wind. It means maybe we can really do something bold like geothermal.

And so, the position that you are nominated to as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is important. I have communities that are reliant right now on diesel-powered generation. That's how they stay warm. That's how they keep the lights on. And so, when the barge doesn't make it in, or when the price of fuel goes through the roof, it squeezes everything else that these individuals have available to them for their families.

And so, I look at some of the things that we are doing here to help facilitate some of these smaller microgrid solutions as vitally,

vitaly important. We had a debate, certainly, before the Senate last week when it came to certain of the tax credits for our solar and wind projects. We negotiated a little bit longer runway for wind and solar tax credits in reconciliation. It wasn't much, but it's going to help allow for the facilitation of a couple of projects—maybe a good handful of projects to proceed—and then, we just see at the beginning of this week an executive order coming out of the White House that, as I read it, really, really guts the effort for a compromise that we were able to secure within that reconciliation bill. So, I don't really like it. I will just be blunt. I don't really like it at all. And I don't like it because, not only does it undercut the arrangement that we were able to work, but also because it leaves these communities that I represent with no solution other than barging in or flying in more diesel to keep the lights on and to keep them warm.

So I acknowledge and appreciate the role that the Office of EERE has played in really being this partner to promote energy security for rural communities that experience limited access to these alternate baseload energy resources. So I just need your commitment that you will work with us to understand what the local solutions are and help to facilitate them, because what happens back here in Washington, DC isn't going to translate to these rural communities that I have in my state. So can you commit to me that you are going to work with us on some of these solutions?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Senator Murkowski, first of all, I love Alaska. I have spent lots of time in Alaska, and I ardently believe that energy in rural communities and in isolated communities has many different constraints than the energy we are talking about to power a data center in Arlington. And energy is everything, and delivering energy to a remote community in Alaska may look very different than the energy solutions we would work toward in other communities in other places in the United States.

I have particular experience with this. I have built a company in rural New Mexico, and we didn't have any power. We did not have access to the power—to Xcel in New Mexico. They gave us a three-year wait list, a three-year timeline. So we decided that we needed to take matters into our own hands and we had novel solutions to treating field gas onsite to using our own gas-fired turbines, and we built our own microgrid. These were solutions that we needed to come up with because we faced a challenge. I understand that the rural communities in Alaska face challenges, and I absolutely commit to you to work as a partner in figuring out the right energy solution for that very unique environment.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Well, I appreciate that. I look forward to working with you on that, whether it's wind, solar, whether it's geothermal. We have had some good engagement with our tribal communities on the geothermal side. I am also concerned about the President's budget proposal on elimination of the weatherization program. Again, whether you are from Alaska, where it's cold, or New Mexico, where it's hot, weatherization is going to be key for us as well.

My time is expired, but I appreciate the opportunity to work with you on some of these very important issues and to the rest of you as well. We have some good projects, Mr. Eisner, I will probably

want to talk to you about our Alaska natural gas opportunities and Arctic energy as well in the international space.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Padilla.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Good morning to all of you. I am going to focus my questions—surprise, surprise—on EERE. The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has had a strong connection and collaboration with the State of California for many, many years. California prides itself on being on the forefront of energy innovation. This partnership supports the state's growth to advance new and innovative energy technologies, including in areas of research and development, demonstration projects, and financial incentives as well, particularly in areas like energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and biofuels, and the storage technologies and capacity it has to accompany some of the newer technologies to address concerns about intermittency and beyond. So all of these represent key efforts, not just to reduce emissions, but ultimately to also lower electricity bills and make energy more abundant.

With that being established, a question for Ms. Robertson—if you are confirmed, will you commit to honoring the previously awarded grants and funding that have been already acted upon with the State of California?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Thank you, Senator Padilla, for the question.

I am not yet in the office. What I can confirm to you is that I will follow the law and the commitments of the U.S. Government as is my intention if I am so fortunate to be in that role.

Senator PADILLA. Okay.

Ms. ROBERTSON. I do know that the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has over 2,000 active projects, and that the review of those projects is something Secretary Wright has initiated as an ongoing matter, and if I am so fortunate to be confirmed sometime this year, I would absolutely love to look at those and be happy to work with you and your office on those that touch California.

Senator PADILLA. Okay. So again, just, I prefaced my question with if you are confirmed, so I am not getting ahead of myself, but again, these are projects that are not under review, not recently applied for, these were applications that have been reviewed and awarded. I just want to make sure that those awards are honored going forward.

I will give an example. One of the awards was to help fund cutting-edge marine pumped hydroelectric storage systems at the Port of Los Angeles. You may be familiar with the Port of Los Angeles. The Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach combined represent 40 percent of the commerce coming in out of the United States in that one port complex alone. Would you be supportive of innovative energy technologies like EERE's Water Power Technologies Office?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Thank you, Senator Padilla. I am very excited to learn more and participate in the Water Power Technologies Office. I think that is an exciting area of EERE, and one I am, if I am so fortunate to be confirmed, I am very excited to work in.

Senator PADILLA. Good. Well, I highlight this one because I wasn't physically present for your opening remarks. I did catch it from my office. I also have seen your written testimony as well, and you are excited, you are committed. I am excited and I am committed. But we also have the new challenge of meeting these objectives, striving for these goals with a President's budget proposal that would cut EERE's resources by more than half. So we are going to have to figure out how to square those—do more with less.

Another award from EERE was a demonstration project in California to support new load growth through grid innovations and to support the ability of energy providers to right-size grid investments for future load growth. As electricity demand grows and we seek to meet that demand, both because of our growing population as well as our growing economy, this is not the time to stop funding grid innovation, but the administration, the Trump administration, has been very vocal about meeting the projected growth in electricity demand, but proposes a 74 percent budget cut to EERE. How do you do that? How do you go about that, if you are fortunate enough to be confirmed?

Ms. ROBERTSON. I think it's a matter of austerity across the Federal Government and having to do more with less. I don't think that changes the President's bold agenda for energy and grid enhancements. Grid innovation is a component of President Trump's vision of how we create a more secure America. We have a very fragile grid, and it's not just within EERE that issues of the grid are tackled and are challenged, it is across our national labs. It is in the Office of Electricity in the Grid Deployment Office. There are multiple touchpoints within the Department that, if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed and be in the building, I look forward to a lot of cross-collaboration to solve these issues because those are big issues.

Senator PADILLA. I am glad to at least hear you say the grid is fragile in so many ways in so many areas, in large part because it's an old grid.

Ms. ROBERTSON. Yes—

Senator PADILLA. So if you are going to address deferred maintenance, if you are going to modernize, if you are going to add capacity, if you are going to add efficiency and improve performance, these are all objectives that require investments, not cuts.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Cortez Masto.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome, congratulations to all the nominees. Welcome to all of your family members. It's always fun to be here on the first day. It's the second or third day that we will have conversations about, but thank you so much.

I want to start off by talking a little bit about Nevada because Nevada has done an incredible job leaning into the potential for energy, and particularly around solar, geothermal, and hydro. I mean, there is so much happening in Nevada right now, and it is an example of what our future can be if we want to be energy independent, including, I want to say, battery storage.

Ms. Robertson, I invite you to come to Nevada to see what is happening with battery storage there because it is part of the base-load, and it's happening right now. My frustration is that, unfortunately, under this administration, we are picking winners and losers. And we are saying to states like Nevada, based on our geography and our opportunities, that even though solar is one of our number one commodities, that we shouldn't even look at it anymore. And I think an all-of-the-above energy approach should be based on what each state is capable of doing based on their geography, their minerals, whatever is available for them. And I am here to tell you, in Nevada, it really is around solar, geothermal, hydro, and there is so much more happening there, but that's different than the New England states. That's even different than Texas. So I am not about picking winners and losers, I am looking for a balanced approach here, and I am just disappointed that this administration and some of my colleagues have gutted and cut wind and solar and now are doing the same around battery storage, electric vehicles, and critical minerals.

And we are going to talk about this because critical minerals are key to our technology future. And if we're not also leaning in and making sure that this country is capable of producing those critical minerals, we are going to be left behind in our energy independence, as well as our national security. But I want to start with Ms. Robertson, with you. According to recent projections from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, retail energy prices will continue to increase beyond 2026, and additional reports have assessed that cuts to clean energy tax credits, like those made in the recently enacted GOP reconciliation law, could result in Americans paying as much as \$110 more on their utility bills. And despite these increased energy rates, the administration has proposed to zero-out crucial energy assistance programs in their Fiscal Year 2026 budget, including EERE's Energy-to-Grid Integration Program.

And so, I want to talk to you about that. Can you explain the benefits that cutting grid energy programs or even energy assistance programs provides for Americans? I mean, is this where we should be going if we are looking at integrating our grid with all of the potential energy sources that are out there? And I appreciate your comments that there are trade-offs with all of them, but why pick winners and losers?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Senator Cortez Masto, I don't believe in picking winners and losers. I do believe that energy is about science and energy is about numbers. And I don't have any feelings or belief structures around energy. It is—they are equations, and delivering for the American people is going to require us to be thoughtful and tactical. It's going to lean into the science and try to advance some of the technologies that, frankly, Nevada is leading in. You have one of the leading geothermal potentials, and an existing share of your utility comes from geothermal.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. But for that reason, energy grid integration is so important, wouldn't you agree?

Ms. ROBERTSON. I agree with the importance. You asked a question specifically about the budget. It is very difficult for me to comment on how the budget is allocated, how it works today. I am not

in the building. I am still living in Colorado. This is not exactly an area where I have oversight or domain knowledge, but I do know that grid integration is a component of the Department of Energy across multiple departments, across multiple national labs, and it's a priority for the President and it's a priority for Secretary Wright, because without the grid, we don't have energy distribution.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you. I have about 30 seconds left and I want to just get this question in. The rest I will submit for the record. Thank you all for being here.

But Mr. Walsh, it goes without saying, but timely and transparent communication is crucial to the success of DOE's environmental management program in Nevada. I welcome you to come out there and take a look at what's going on. If confirmed, do I have your commitment to prioritize an open relationship with myself and our state officials on all DOE environmental management activities in Nevada?

Mr. WALSH. Yes, Senator Cortez Masto—

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. And will you pledge to uphold all existing agreements and contracts with the State of Nevada?

Mr. WALSH. Yes, as President Trump and Secretary Wright reinforce, we're not going to force nuclear waste on Nevada.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Thanks.

Senator Cantwell.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate all the nominees.

Thank you, Mr. Walsh. My line is a little more detailed on this question about commitments to the Hanford cleanup mission, and that is one of the key responsibilities you will have. This means over the next 15 years removing and treating 56 million gallons of nuclear waste. So hardly something that I would call an ongoing thing that people, you know, certainly the State of Washington has a consent decree with the DOE because we want to see it cleaned up, not because we want it to continue.

Mr. WALSH. Yes.

Senator CANTWELL. And so, the notion that somebody would suggest that somehow we want this to continue, we have a mission and we want to move on. And so, we are happy to move on from that, but we also can't do it on the cheap. And oftentimes people look at the budget and they are like, oh, let's do it on the cheap or, you know, when we had cleanup all around the United States, people came together and said, oh, let's always get that budget. But as Colorado and South Carolina and other places that were easy to clean up got done, then everybody all of a sudden said, well, maybe we can do this on the cheap in the Northwest. So you can't. You have got to get it done right, and we want to make sure that already leaking storage tanks get the priority that they deserve.

So the major understanding here is the Tri-Party Agreement and consent decree milestones that basically say these are the milestones that need to be met in cleaning up 586 square miles of Cold War era nuclear contaminants. That is literally just what it takes. You have to make these investments and continue. So do you com-

mit to upholding the Tri-Party Agreement and the consent decree milestones that are a part of this process?

Mr. WALSH. Yes, thank you for that question, Senator Cantwell, and you know, I really look forward to getting out to Hanford, meeting you out there, and digging into this. It's a critically important mission. The people of Washington State, and indeed, all Americans deserve to live in a safe, clean environment. I know this has been an ongoing process—

Senator CANTWELL. Well, this is a federal responsibility, right?

Mr. WALSH. It is.

Senator CANTWELL. So it's the Federal Government's responsibility. We just are a little more of a watchdog just because we are there.

Mr. WALSH. Yes.

Senator CANTWELL. And we have to be.

Mr. WALSH. And I am a man of action. I understand the consent agreement. I understand the Tri-Party Agreement. It has outlined the framework of the cleanup and responsibilities it has. It's a living document that has been modified a few times over the last 20 years. And you have my commitment that we are going to work together, and that it's going to be a priority in the Office of Environmental Management.

Senator CANTWELL. Well, what nuclear waste understanding and technical expertise would you bring to the situation?

Mr. WALSH. Well, I can tell you that I am a quick learner. I have an engineering background. I am sort of an engineering geek. And like anything I have accomplished in my life, whether it was building a complex semiconductor plant, you rely on the experts. And I think what the Hanford site needs is really leadership and a good, solid plan that is well executed, and that is what I intend to bring.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. Thank you for that.

Ms. Robertson, could you talk about the budget cuts to EERE?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Thank you, Senator, for the question.

I am not in the Department, so it's very difficult for me to talk specifically about decisions that have been made in the Department at this time.

Senator CANTWELL. What do you think, I mean, we have projects that are already underway, and you are talking about significant cuts to things like the Battery500 Consortium. Do you believe in those kinds of activities?

Ms. ROBERTSON. I am not familiar with the Battery500 Consortium.

Senator CANTWELL. Okay, so you are trying to get a job with this level of oversight on energy efficiency and renewable, and this is probably one of the labs in the nation's biggest effort on storage, bringing grid-scale storage, so.

Ms. ROBERTSON. Is this at PNNL?

Senator CANTWELL. Yes, yes.

Ms. ROBERTSON. Okay. I'm sorry, I didn't know that was what it was referring to. I am well aware of their activities in both grid—they have released a big report this week in both grids and battery innovation. My perspective on the budget, as an outsider and a civilian—

Senator CANTWELL. I am just asking you about this idea that we should be investing and trying to testbed to try to get to a higher level of battery technology—I mean battery mass—you know, grid-scale storage, whether you support that concept.

Ms. ROBERTSON. I support battery technology and innovation as a very important function of the Department of Energy, absolutely.

Senator CANTWELL. And funding things like that at the national lab?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Funding at the national labs, again, not being in the building, not understanding all of the demands on the budget, it's very difficult for me to speak about a specific program when I am not in a position to evaluate all of the demands on the Department.

Senator CANTWELL. Okay, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator BARRASSO.

Senator BARRASSO. Thanks so much, Mr. Chairman. Congratulations to all of you. I appreciate your time and willingness to serve.

Mr. Erdos, thanks so much for visiting with me.

You know, the previous administration sought to delay and deny efforts to expand coal mining. This had a profoundly destructive impact on Wyoming, on families, in our communities. I think it also had a significant impact, destructively, in terms of our energy security as a nation. If confirmed, how are you going to change the course of OSM?

Mr. ERDOS. Well, I think what we need to do is look at NEPA. So there was decision that came down from the Supreme Court recently in regards to NEPA, and I think it was very telling. From what I recall reading, the idea is to focus NEPA on the areas to be affected, not so much upstream/downstream, substantial deference to the reviewing agency, and I think that goes a long way in ensuring that those NEPA reviews are done timely, we get EISs approved and records of decision out quickly. So I think that is one thing we look at is NEPA. I think that is a big deal. I think program amendments is another. I spoke to that earlier. I think we have to look at that. There are probably 30 to 35 program amendments sitting at OSM right now. That has a significant effect on the states and how they do business. So we need to look at that too.

Senator BARRASSO. Well, and to your point, in terms of the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, it was an 8–0 decision. I mean, we're not talking about something that was close at all. And Justice Kavanaugh wrote the report. NEPA is a procedural cross check, not a substantive roadblock. The goal, he said, of the law, is to "inform agency decision-making, not paralyze it." So I am very glad that you pointed out the Supreme Court ruling, and it is going to help influence your ability to get things done effectively and quickly.

You know, one of the successes of that office that you are going to be holding, hopefully after your confirmation, depends on strong relationships with the states that execute things like the mine programs, both for mine development and for cleanup. States need clear guidance and an open line of communication to carry out

these shared goals. So, if confirmed, how will you approach strengthening the cooperation between the Federal Government and the states?

Mr. ERDOS. We will do exactly what we did under the first Trump administration, Senator. I had scheduled meetings with the state folks. I scheduled meetings with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, who represent most, if not all, of the states that have primacy across the country that actually mine coal. So you have to communicate with the states. If you're not communicating, if you not talking, you're not moving forward. If you're not talking, you are going backward. So it's all about communication. I represented Ohio for a decade on the IMCC—Interstate Mining Compact Commission—so I have many relationships across the country with all the state regulators. So we will continue to do that. That will serve us well.

Senator BARRASSO. Ms. Robertson, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office is in charge of investing in innovative ideas and the way to give you the best chance of success with all of those. So how do we ensure that our limited funding is spent on the highest priority work?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Thank you for the question, Senator Barrasso. I think the President's priorities have been to create reliable, affordable, secure energy, and through that lens, we must make decisions regarding allocation of funds to ensure that the American taxpayer dollars are invested in the programs, projects, and advancements that will create the most meaningful impacts to the United States. And I think—I am not sure if that answers your question.

Senator BARRASSO. Yes, you know, because we have limited money and we want to make sure we get the best bang for the buck.

Ms. ROBERTSON. Absolutely.

Senator BARRASSO. Senator Cantwell just asked about a specific project, and I just thought, overall, I would give you an opportunity to talk about—

Ms. ROBERTSON. Thank you. And I do believe that there are 11 offices within EERE, and the pioneering technologies that are happening in geothermal, in bioenergy, in water power—there are a lot of exciting developments that don't violate the laws of nature or thermodynamics and have real potential.

Senator BARRASSO. Let me go to Mr. Eisner. Ms. Robertson just said “that don't violate the laws” and “that have potential.” So with your role, if confirmed, you are going to lead the office that oversees our participation in the International Energy Agency. In recent years, the IEA has changed its focus away from analyzing the world as it is, and has sought to project the world with its policy preferences in mind. If confirmed, how will you work with the IEA to get the agency back to providing unbiased analysis?

Mr. EISNER. Thank you, Senator, for that very important question. I enjoyed serving as a keynote speaker at the Rockies Petroleum Conference with you last year in Laramie, Wyoming. I think that the key to effective advocacy and effective diplomacy really is leadership and good data, and I very much look forward to—having had much experience in my career working with heads of state,

government ministers, and diplomats—I feel like I can be a very effective advocate of the U.S. position and the President’s energy agenda in all of the bilateral and multilateral forums that I will have the honor, if I am confirmed, to participate in.

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Daines.

Senator DAINES. Chairman Lee, thank you. Congratulations to the nominees for considering these important roles. I also want to invite each of you to come visit Montana. The rest of the world is coming to see us, you might as well join the rest of the world and enjoy the great outdoors we have there in our great state.

Mr. Erdos, in 2020, you were reported out of this Committee unanimously and similarly confirmed by the Senate by voice vote, and it’s our aspiration and goal that we can do it again this time around. Unfortunately, under the Biden administration, the Office of Surface Mining refused to grant permits for three Montana coal mines. Thankfully, the Trump administration has reversed course and has now approved the Bull Mountains mine permit and the Spring Creek mine permit, and we expect to have a permit for the Rosebud coal mine very soon. Further, on the Fourth of July, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill into law to specifically authorize coal mining at the Bull Mountains mine. I want to thank the Chairman of the Committee for fighting for that important outcome and win in that piece of legislation. This was a big win for a lot of hardworking folks in Montana and for these rural Montana communities that don’t have the elaborate lifestyle that you see on the show Yellowstone. More of Montana is struggling day in and day out to pay the bills every month.

Mr. Erdos, when confirmed, will you prioritize reviewing and completing mining permits and implementing the new coal provisions signed into law in the Big Beautiful Bill?

Mr. ERDOS. Yes, certainly, Senator, and thank you for the question. You and I actually talked about those permits a few years ago, and obviously, OSM and BLM have got those through the system relative to NEPA reviews and finalized those, so that’s great. Certainly, yes, I think provisions in the Big Beautiful Bill, there are some in there—the leasing part is not OSM, that’s BLM, so we don’t lease coal, but BLM does, but as far as the other provisions, royalties—that’s a big deal—12-and-a-half to 7 percent. So you have a coal operator out there that looks at 20 million tons of coal, and at 12-and-a-half percent, the numbers don’t work. But he looks at it at 7 percent, and the numbers do work. So you mine that 20 million tons of coal at 7 percent, you have those revenues coming back into the country. So at 12-and-a-half, you get zero revenue. And at seven percent, whatever that number is, you have coming into the country.

So I am excited about that. I think it will actually incentivize the industry to buy more coal and provide more revenue for the country.

Senator DAINES. Right, well the revenue piece is so important, but I will tell you, we need more baseload power. We need more energy. I mean, this is—

Mr. ERDOS. Absolutely.

Senator DAINES. This is an existential threat to the future in terms of our competitiveness and so forth as we think about where we are headed here in the next several years.

By the way, Mr. Erdos, Montana recently passed House bill 587 to update our mine reclamation laws. It's my understanding that the Office of Surface Mining now needs to approve those updates, and that mines in Montana need that approval immediately. Will you ensure that these approvals aren't held up by bureaucracy and are issued without delay?

Mr. ERDOS. Absolutely, yes. I spoke to this earlier in regard to program amendments. It's an issue. I understand it's an issue at OSM. We will work on that right away and make sure that those move through the system as they should.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

Mr. ERDOS. So the short answer is yes.

Senator DAINES. Appreciate that.

Mr. Eisner, as Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, your role will be to advocate for U.S. energy dominance around the globe. We have a very important mine in Montana called the Stillwater Mine. It's one of the only primary producers of platinum and palladium in the United States—in fact, it is the only—just on a very short list of a few around the world that do such. We have already lost hundreds of jobs because of Russian dumping. We must reverse this course.

Mr. Eisner, when confirmed, will you advocate for the Stillwater Mines and their employees—some 700 employees were laid off recently—and work with your colleagues throughout the administration to take action against unfair Russian trade practices?

Mr. EISNER. Thank you for that question, Senator Daines.

I feel like one of my primary responsibilities as the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs will be to advocate for American energy and American critical minerals, both in bilateral as well as multilateral organizations, and I don't know the specifics about Stillwater or what the priorities of the Department and Secretary Wright are at this point, but I will always defend and advocate for America's product, and I will always advocate against unfair trade practices, should they exist with the Russians or with anyone else.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Eisner, thank you.

One final follow-up question, and I am out of time. I want to bring up the—this is getting into the weeds here in Montana—it's just probably one you can take notes on and follow up, but it's the Montana Alberta Tie Line. It is a vital interconnector that allows for energy exports into the Canadian marketplace. Unfortunately, Alberta has levied a number of rules and regulations that discriminate against Montana electricity producers and ultimately undermines the stability of our grid. As you know, managing a grid is very, very dynamic and very important. You have maximum flexibility. This is a problem.

When confirmed, would you commit to working with the relevant agency partners to ensure that our Montana energy producers operate on a level playing field in the Canadian markets?

Mr. EISNER. Senator, as you know, a centerpiece of the President's economic agenda is the creation of a level playing field for U.S. exports around the world. And so, I have no doubt that a situ-

ation as you have described would be something that I would be eager to take a look at very early on in my tenure, should I be confirmed by the Senate.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Eisner, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH. We had a little bit of a discussion around incandescent and solid-state lighting earlier. So I thought I would take the opportunity to give some credit where credit is due. Our national labs are the envy of the world, and Sandia National Lab, in particular, played a key role in the creation of solid-state lighting. So I pulled up some numbers off the internet from the Department of Energy and some other think tanks that have analyzed the benefits of that, and I thought it was interesting that the cost to run a LED light bulb for 1,000 hours is \$1.32, and the cost to run an incandescent light bulb for the same amount of hours is \$6.60. So there is actually an 80 percent savings over that first thousand hours.

The other interesting statistic that I was able to pull up is that most incandescent light bulbs burn out after 1,000 hours. I can tell you, with my old pick-up truck, this happens to the brake lights all the time. It's a pain in the something. And so, when you replace that incandescent with a LED, you actually get 25 times the life, and we have our national labs to thank for that.

Mr. ERDOS, I wanted to ask you a particular tribal question. The Office of Surface Mining is responsible for permitting oversight for all coal mines on tribal lands, and that includes four sites right now on the Navajo Nation. So when we are talking about operations on tribal land, consultation is a legal requirement. It's not, in my view, adequate. So I wanted to ask you, if confirmed, would you not just engage in consultation, but really engage in active collaboration with the Navajo Nation and Navajo communities when making decisions about mine operations and reclamations on Navajo Nation land?

Mr. ERDOS. Yes, absolutely, Senator. I am certainly committed to doing that. As I said before, earlier, if you aren't communicating, you're not moving forward. So I look forward to doing that, actually.

Senator HEINRICH. Do you have some experience working with tribal governments?

Mr. ERDOS. I did back when I was here the previous time, yes.

Senator HEINRICH. Great. I look forward to engaging with you on that as well. I think it's really important for your success as well as for those communities.

Ms. Robertson, I wanted to ask you about something that has been raised to me, and I wanted to give you a chance to speak to it, that Franklin has had a number of both Clean Air Act violations and spills in the State of New Mexico, several dozen spills, in fact. And what would you just say to my constituents that are concerned about that record in the Permian?

Ms. ROBERTSON. Senator Heinrich, happy to speak to that. Franklin Mountain Energy is now sold. But we built this company from a few barrels a day to over 65,000 barrels of day of oil production. Growing an organization from raw BLM leases in Southeast

New Mexico to running five rigs at one time is a massive, 24/7 manufacturing operation for which our team has an outstanding safety record and an outstanding EPA air quality record. We did have a number of violations that were cited. The vast majority of those were remedied within a day or two. The majority of those issues came from third-party equipment that was on our facilities.

We take great pride in both building and operating some of the most remarkable oil and gas facilities in the United States and in the great State of New Mexico. So I guess having spills is part of running a big, complicated business. There is not an oil and gas company that can move the amount of fluid, gas, and people that we do without having an occasional spill, but our record within the community is outstanding and I am very proud of them.

Senator HEINRICH. I appreciate your response to that. I think that while these impacts are a reality, they also have very real impacts on my constituents. And so, I think the goal, as challenging as it is, should be zero. But I appreciate your focus on that and your response to those questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

I want to thank the witnesses for their testimony and I want to thank all the Senators for their cooperation this morning.

Questions for the record of this hearing will be due by 6:00 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, the 10th of July.

The record of the hearing will remain open for statements until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16.

Thanks to the members of the Committee and the staff for getting this put together.

On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to congratulate each and every one of you on your nomination. I look forward to working closely with each of you and helping to get your nominations advanced to the floor. I hope every member of the Committee is willing to work with me to encourage leadership on both sides of the aisle to bring these nominations to the floor as soon as possible.

Today's hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:24 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED

**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
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Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. David Eisner**

Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Martin Heinrich

Question 1: According to Bloomberg, global investment in the energy transition hit a record \$2.1 trillion in 2024. China accounted for roughly two-thirds of those investments and a major share of rare earth processing.

- Would you agree that China seems to be growing its global influence by controlling large portions of the clean energy supply chain?
- Would you agree that strengthening America’s clean energy supply chain is essential to countering China’s growing geopolitical influence?
- Given how bullish China and other geopolitical rivals are on clean energy, would you agree that supporting American clean-energy exports isn’t just an economic imperative—it’s a strategic necessity?

Response: I agree that China presents a strategic geopolitical challenge for the United States, including for critical energy minerals, materials, and technologies, to name a few. We should not rely on foreign state actors or adversaries for key resources that are required to drive and power our economic and national security. If confirmed, I look forward to supporting President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright’s agenda to secure and develop critical minerals to strengthen our domestic supply chains, advance American energy exports, and unleash America’s energy dominance.

Question 2: The Office of International Affairs supports LNG, coal, and nuclear technologies with diplomacy and financing.

- If confirmed, would you ensure clean energy technologies get the same level of support as fossil fuel energy sources?

Response: Advancing American energy leadership means investing in next-generation technologies – from expanding nuclear energy to accelerating breakthroughs in energy storage and innovation. If confirmed, I will be an advocate for the Department’s role to advance an affordable, reliable and secure energy future for America and its allies.

Questions for the Record from Senator John Hoeven

Question 1: Energy security is directly tied to our economic and national security. Our position as the world’s largest oil and gas producer has brought tremendous strategic and economic benefits. U.S. energy exports help displace energy from adversarial nations like Russia, Venezuela, and Iran, and weakens their influence.

If confirmed, how will you work to strengthen our energy trading relationships with our allies?

Response: I agree that energy security is foundational to our national security and economic strength. I also believe that strengthening our trading relationships with allies is a core

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responsibility of the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs. If confirmed, I will work to reinforce energy partnerships with our allies through diplomacy grounded in shared economic and security interests. That includes advancing transparent, market-based trade relationships, supporting the responsible deployment of U.S. energy technologies abroad, like nuclear, and aligning engagement with our domestic production and resource strengths.

Questions for the Record from Senator Mazie Hirono

Question 1: Hawaii and Okinawa have an agreement to work on energy issues that they both face as island communities. The 15th Annual Taskforce meeting of the Hawaii-Okinawa Clean Energy Partnership took place in November, 2024, including the involvement of personnel from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). If you are confirmed, will you commit to continuing DOE's support and involvement in the meetings held under the partnership agreement?

Response: While I am not yet at the Department, if confirmed, I look forward to being fully briefed on DOE Office of International Affairs' activities and partnership agreements and support initiatives that advance and deepen energy cooperation with our allies, including Japan.

Question 2: In December 2024, the United States and Japan held their third annual Energy Security Dialogue (ESD), involving the U.S. Department of State and DOE. Do you support continuing the ESDs and deepening U.S. cooperation with Japan on energy security? What more do you think can be done to strengthen our energy relationship with Japan?

Response: Japan is one of our most important allies. While I am not yet at the Department, if confirmed, I look forward to being fully briefed on DOE Office of International Affairs' activities and formal dialogue arrangements and support initiatives that advance and deepen energy cooperation with our allies, including Japan.

Question 3: The people of Hawaii understand the unique energy challenges that come with living on islands. Hawaii faces the highest energy costs in the country and is working to reduce its reliance on imported petroleum as its main energy source. Will you commit to working cooperatively on energy security with island nations in Pacific, including the COFA nations, with which the United States has special economic and national security agreements?

Response: If confirmed, I will prioritize collaborative, practical efforts to support energy security in Hawaii and in partner nations across the Pacific. That includes working with interagency and international partners to share technical expertise and advancing resilient energy systems based on affordable, reliable and secure sources. I recognize the strategic and humanitarian importance of these partnerships and will ensure our engagement is thoughtful, transparent and results-oriented.

Question 4: The increase in extreme weather events in the U.S. and around the world pose significant risks to U.S. military bases both domestically and internationally, potentially disrupting operational readiness and energy infrastructure and resilience. If confirmed, how will

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you coordinate with allies and partners to mitigate these growing risks? How will you coordinate with the Department of Defense and military services on strategic planning, risk assessments, and energy resource allocations to U.S. installations and bases around the world?

Response: If confirmed, I will work closely with the Department of Defense and our international partners to support strategic planning, risk assessments, and energy resource decisions that enhance resilience and operational continuity. My approach will emphasize interagency coordination and targeted investments that protect critical infrastructure and support mission readiness.

Question 5: If confirmed, one of the sub-offices you lead will be the Office of Foreign Investment and National Security. If confirmed, what is your plan for developing this office's strategic objectives to advance U.S. national security? How will you coordinate with interagency stakeholders to advance the office's key priorities?

Response: If confirmed, I will work closely with the interagency community – including the Departments of Defense, Treasury, Commerce and others – to ensure coordinated, timely and risk-informed reviews of foreign investment transactions. My focus will be on protecting critical energy infrastructure, advancing secure supply chains, and ensuring that our decisions are grounded in law, intelligence and long-term U.S. interests.

Questions for the Record from Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Question 1: How does phasing out clean energy tax credits actually help the U.S. compete in vital industries for the future – whether it is energy demand for data centers or producing critical minerals for growing defense and energy industry demand?

If confirmed, what is your plan to enhance domestic critical mineral supply chains? Are there certain partnerships with ally countries in International Working Groups that you'd seek to expand or develop?

Response: While I was not involved in the development of tax legislation, I believe that the United States will meet its massive future needs by supporting and promoting the most secure, reliable and affordable sources of energy. We must also remain focused on practical, cost-effective strategies that strengthen U.S. critical mineral supply chains and energy infrastructure. If confirmed, I will work to enhance domestic critical mineral production and processing through strategic partnerships with industry, national labs, and states as well as with allies. My approach will be grounded in clear prioritization, technical rigor and commitment to delivering durable results for the American people.

Question 2: Do you agree that energy efficiency standards for consumer products benefit ratepayers – saving American homes and businesses money? If confirmed, will you support

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continued federal support for research projects to enhance energy efficiency and develop new energy sources and options for the U.S. grid?

In recent decades, would you agree there have been continued improvements in energy efficiency, producing more efficient homes and appliances, and that these innovations have benefited from government research funding? Would you view these investments as a net positive for U.S. families and consumers?

Response: I support continued investment in research and development that enables cost-effective efficiency gains and expands affordable, reliable and secure energy options for the grid. Over the past several decades, innovations have been supported in part by targeted government research. If confirmed, I will remain focused on practical, results-driven efforts that help reduce energy costs and ensure efficient use of taxpayer resources.

Question 3: If confirmed, what priorities would you bring to your Office to promote and enhance the development of geothermal technologies? Do you believe there are ways that the U.S. can further solidify leadership and standards setting for new technologies like Next-Generation Geothermal?

Response: I believe the U.S. can play a leading role in advancing next-generation geothermal technologies by leveraging public-private partnerships and bi-lateral partnerships with allies and supporting early-stage research. My focus will be on practical solutions that unlock geothermal's potential while ensuring strong stewardship of taxpayer resources.

Question 4: As Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, how would you ensure that the Administration's tariff policies, and specifically the President's blanket tariffs on allied minerals, do not undermine U.S. national security?

Response: Our trade policies must be carefully aligned with our national security and economic interests. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that our international energy engagement supports secure, diversified supply chains and strengthens partnerships with trusted allies. I believe there is a path forward that protects domestic capabilities while also preserving the strategic relationships and sourcing agreements needed to meet rising demand for critical minerals. My approach will emphasize interagency coordination, including with the U.S. Trade Representative, Treasury and Commerce Departments, and consistent engagement with allies to strengthen our shared security and energy goals.

Questions for the Record from Senator John W. Hickenlooper

Question 1: Mr. Eisner, it has been no secret that this Administration does not see value in many of the international activities typically coordinated by our Agencies. Aligned with this shift in priorities, the President's FY26 budget request would cut your Office's budget by 60% and 25 staff members have already left DOE's Office for International Affairs since the start of this Administration. With a 60% budget cut and significant staff departures, how will your office

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continue to meet its mission—particularly in countering malign foreign influence on U.S. energy systems?

Response: As a successful entrepreneur, I have spent decades doing more with less. If confirmed, my priority will be to ensure that the office remains focused, efficient and mission-driven, even with constrained resources. I will assess core functions, preserve high-impact engagements and work across the Department and with interagency partners to maintain continuity in areas vital to U.S. interests and the President’s priorities. My approach will be grounded in strategic prioritization and a clear-eyed commitment to safeguarding the nation’s energy security in a complex global landscape.

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Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Martin Heinrich

Question 1: As you know, the President's Budget is a policy proposal and values statement. Congress holds the power of the purse.

- Do you believe it's in the national interest to expand nuclear activity without increasing the budget for waste cleaning up?
- If confirmed, do I have your commitment to work with Congress to advocate for the funding the Office of Environmental Management needs to meet its legal cleanup obligations?

Response: I agree with President Trump's and Energy Secretary Wright's priority to advance American nuclear innovation to meet growing energy demands and as a matter of national security. As I stated in my nomination hearing, if confirmed, I will steward DOE's Office of Environmental Management's efforts to meet the federal government's obligations to clean up legacy defense sites. While I am not currently at the Department and have not been fully briefed on current activities and budgets, I look forward to working with you and your colleagues to balance these priorities and ensure adequate resources.

Questions for the Record from Senator James E. Risch

Question 1: The Idaho Cleanup Project is dedicated to restoring the environment on the Idaho National Lab (INL) site from waste left by legacy defense and research-related activities. In 1995, the State of Idaho and the DOE entered into a settlement agreement that established a timeline for DOE to treat and remove legacy waste from the state with a goal of completing much of the cleanup by 2035 and maintaining DOE control until 2095. Upholding the federal government's side of the settlement agreement requires concerted focus and support. This work is incredibly important to the state of Idaho, the INL, and the future of nuclear energy. As you prepare to lead DOE's Environmental Management program, will you commit to prioritizing the Idaho Cleanup Project and visiting the site once you are confirmed?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to being fully briefed on DOE Office of Environmental Management activities in Idaho and look forward to visiting the site as well as Idaho National Laboratory.

Questions for the Record from Senator Ron Wyden

Question 1: As you know, the Hanford Site in Washington was used to enrich plutonium for nuclear weapons in World War 2, which resulted in it becoming one of the most contaminated sites on the planet. The President's Budget proposed flat funding for Hanford cleanup, which is effectively a cut because of inflation and is far below what is needed to meet legal deadlines for cleanup or radioactive and toxic pollution that outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement. Additionally, there are concerning reports of reduced staffing at the site and employees now managing

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multiple roles. Will you ensure the Hanford Site has the staffing and funding it needs to uphold the Tri-Party agreement? Will you commit to transparency in sharing staffing levels with my office? Will you continue to prioritize your attention and resources on cleaning up this site?

Response: I recognize the importance of fulfilling the Department's commitments and responsibilities. If confirmed, I will prioritize safe, timely cleanup and ensure staffing and resource decisions are aligned with meeting our legal and environmental obligations. My focus will be on protecting the public health and environment while ensuring taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively to drive measurable progress, and I look forward to working with you in your office in that regard.

Questions for the Record from Senator Steve Daines

Question 1: Mr. Walsh, Montana is home to 1/3 of the U.S.' Intercontinental Ballistic Missile arsenal. Maintaining cutting edge nuclear strategic deterrent is vital to ensuring peace for the U.S. and our allies. If confirmed to be the Assistant Secretary for the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management, do you commit to helping facilitate the development and fielding of all nuclear weapons technology and the next generation of strategic deterrence, including increased tritium and plutonium pit production?

Response: I appreciate the role Montana plays in our Nation's strategic arsenal and defense. If confirmed, I will work with the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration to ensure that DOE's Environmental Management activities are coordinated in a way that supports broader national security objectives, including the modernization of our strategic deterrent. My focus will be on enabling mission success while maintaining strict safety, environmental and fiscal standards in the management of legacy material and facilities.

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Questions for the Record from Senator Maria Cantwell

Question 1: Hanford Cleanup Milestones

As Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management, you will be responsible for the Hanford Clean-Up mission, the world's largest, and most expensive, environmental clean-up project in the world. The mission is entering a critical phase as the Hanford workforce will begin removing and treating low-level nuclear waste, and work will begin on designing and engineering for high-level waste removal. Over the next 15 years, workers will be removing and treating 56 million gallons of nuclear waste from 177 underground nuclear tanks. This is not just project management. It's making decisions that impact the health and safety of the 13,000 Hanford workers and hundreds of thousands in the Tri-Cities.

- Do you commit to upholding and meeting the Tri-Party Agreement and Consent Decree project milestones?
- Do you support increasing funding for the Hanford cleanup mission to ensure milestones are met?

Response: I recognize the scale, urgency and responsibility of the Hanford cleanup mission – not only in terms of environmental stewardship, but also in protecting the health and safety of the Hanford workforce and surrounding communities. If confirmed, I will be committed to upholding the Department's legal obligations. I will work to ensure project milestones are met through careful planning, disciplined execution and transparent engagement with federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders. While I am not currently at the Department, if confirmed, I will work with you and others in Congress to align resources with mission priorities.

Question 2: Hanford Cleanup Staffing

DOGE resulted in Hanford losing 94 of the 308 Department of Energy Hanford employees it had in the beginning of January.

- If confirmed, what is your plan to ensure Hanford has ample staff to effectively run the site, meet project milestones, keep workers safe and effectively communicate with the public?

Response: If confirmed, I will assess current staffing levels, identify critical capability gaps and work to ensure the site has the resources needed to manage the mission effectively. I am also committed to maintaining strong communication with employees, state partners and the public to foster transparency and trust throughout the process.

Question 3: Hanford Technical Experience

Since the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management position was created in 1989, those that have held the position had extensive background in energy, sciences and many had specific expertise in nuclear science and environmental remediation.

- Beyond project management, what technical expertise would you bring to the Hanford site?

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Response: If confirmed, I will apply over 40 years of leadership, engineering, contracting, and management experience to achieve EM's cleanup milestones safely and efficiently. My approach focuses on setting clear goals, strong leadership, and thorough planning that is well executed. I will collaborate closely with the talented DOE experts and external specialists to ensure success.

Question 4: Hanford Cleanup Partnerships

Earlier this year, DOE released its '2025 Hanford Lifecycle Scope, Schedule, and Cost Report', which estimated that active Hanford cleanup will be complete in 2086, at a cost of between \$364 billion - \$589 billion. On the high end, that would average almost \$10 billion per year, every year, for the next 60 years. So clearly, in addition to ensuring adequate resources in the near-term, it's important to look for opportunities to safely reduce long-term costs. There are a number of opportunities that have great potential, but they MUST be done in partnership with DOE's regulators at Hanford – the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology. A great example is the Holistic Negotiations Settlement Agreement that was announced last year. There were many elements to the agreement, but most importantly it signaled a move towards greater alignment between DOE and its regulators. This alignment will be absolutely critical for long-term cleanup success at Hanford.

- Will you commit to maintaining, and hopefully expanding upon, the positive momentum that currently exists, and to pursue efforts to create even greater alignment in the future?

Response: If confirmed, I will work to build on the positive momentum to create greater alignment in the future to reduce regulatory ambiguities so pathways for safely accelerating the cleanup and reducing costs and environmental risks are created. The Hanford community played a unique and crucial role in protecting the United States during the Cold War and cleaning up the legacy waste at the Hanford site remains a DOE commitment and responsibility. It is important that EM and state regulators, like the Washington Department of Ecology, work together. I will commit to working closely with regulators and will strive to create a strong relationship.

Question 5: Hanford Surplus Land

The Tri-City community near Hanford has been working for decades to leverage assets such as DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Washington State University Tri-Cities, Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station, and the local skilled workforce to become a global leader in clean energy, with a particular focus on nuclear energy and decarbonized industrial production, potentially co-located with data centers. In some cases, surplus DOE lands might be suitable for these nuclear facilities.

- Will you share your thoughts on what you envision DOE's role to be in supporting economic growth and diversification in communities near DOE sites? I'd also like to get your thoughts on the potential for use of surplus DOE land and facilities for new commercial nuclear development?

Response: I appreciate the Tri-Cities' long-standing partnership with the Department and its leadership in advancing energy and nuclear innovation. If confirmed, I believe DOE has a meaningful role to play in supporting thoughtful economic development on and around its sites – especially when it aligns with mission needs, strengthens regional capabilities and creates long-

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term value. I believe such opportunities – including support for advanced nuclear reactor development and deployment using fuel and facilities already on site – should be evaluated carefully, with transparency and a commitment to safety, environmental protection and economic growth. I would be supportive of these and other important opportunities for the use of the Hanford site.

Questions for the Record from Senator John Hoeven

Question 1: The Office of Environmental Management is responsible for complex and costly environmental cleanup resulting from decades of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy research.

If confirmed, how will you ensure cost-effective progress is made in cleanup efforts related to our nation's nuclear legacy?

Response: I believe that fiscal accountability must be at the core of the Environmental Management mission. The scope and complexity of cleaning up our nation's nuclear legacy demands not only technical excellence, but also leadership, rigorous cost control and transparent decision making. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that EM programs are guided by clear performance metrics, cost reviews and strong project management practices.

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Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Martin Heinrich

Question 1: In my home state of New Mexico, EERE supports research at Sandia focused on strengthening the grid, including cyber security, transformer resilience and advanced components, and resilient distribution systems.

- Do you think cuts to EERE funding could reduce lab capacity to deliver on these key areas of important investment?
- Will you commit to working with Congress to secure the additional funding needed to get projects in the pipeline deployed on time?

Response: Thank you for highlighting the critical work at Sandia. Investments in grid resilience, cybersecurity and advanced energy systems are essential to our national security and economic stability. If confirmed, I will be committed to strong fiscal discipline and careful stewardship of taxpayer resources. I also recognize that sustained lab capacity requires targeted, timely investment. I will work with you and your colleagues to recognize the important contributions that institutions like Sandia make toward strengthening our energy systems.

Question 2: At the direction of Congress, DOE has developed energy efficiency standards that have saved American households hundreds of dollars annually on utility costs. The Trump Administration is dead set on stopping these cost saving efforts, and announced in May of this year that they will eliminate many of these standards, which could lead to Americans paying hundreds of dollars more each year in utility costs.

- I know you are not currently at the Department, so do you agree with DOE's decision to roll back these standards?
- Do you believe that the actions announced by this Administration are in accordance with the law and a federal judge's orders to update these standards?

Response: If confirmed, I will work to ensure that all decisions within EERE are guided by the law, grounded in sound analysis and focused on outcomes that benefit American families and businesses. I am committed to upholding the Department's legal obligations, including compliance with judicial orders, and to maintaining a focus on cost-effective solutions that respect taxpayer investments, household budgets and provide consumer choice.

Question 3: Steady funding for EERE is essential to safeguarding NREL's workforce, infrastructure, and world-class research capabilities—and to maintaining U.S. leadership in science and technology. In Fiscal Year 2024, 64 percent of NREL's funding came from EERE, the vast majority of it supporting R&D.

- Do you acknowledge the serious impact the president's proposed 74 percent cut to EERE would have on NREL? The lab already had to lay off 114 employees.
- How many more scientists and researchers do you anticipate will lose their jobs as OMB contemplates further reductions?

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Response: The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) plays a vital role in advancing applied research and providing technical expertise that supports American competitiveness, grid reliability and energy affordability. If confirmed, I will evaluate these issues carefully and work to ensure that decisions are grounded in sound analysis, fiscal responsibility, and alignment with the Department's strategic goals. That includes being transparent about tradeoffs and working with Congress to support high-impact programs and maintain the scientific and technical capacity necessary to meet national energy challenges.

Question 4: Internal documents show that almost 40% of EERE employees took the deferred resignation program, following a significant push from political appointees informing staff that there would be mass layoffs.

- Help me understand how EERE can possibly meet its statutory obligations given the significant workforce reductions?
- Will you look to hire more employees if confirmed?

Response: If confirmed, I will work to assess the current workforce and identify where additional staffing, or expertise may be necessary to fulfill core responsibilities efficiently and effectively. My focus will be on ensuring that EERE can carry out its mission with integrity, fiscal discipline, and a strong commitment to delivering measurable results.

Questions for the Record from Senator Steve Daines

Question 1: Ms. Robertson, as you know, Montana is home to significant geothermal resources that have the potential to unlock gigawatts of domestic baseload power while creating sustainable, good-paying jobs. If confirmed to be Assistant Secretary for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, will you commit to working with Congress to overcome key barriers to advance and accelerate the deployment of geothermal technologies?

Response: I share your view that geothermal energy holds significant promise for reliable, domestic power and job creation in states like Montana. If confirmed, I will work with you and your colleagues to identify and address practical barriers to deployment, with a focus on cost-effective solutions that deliver long-term value to taxpayers and local communities.

Questions for the Record from Senator Ron Wyden

Question 1: Donald Trump's key promise to America during his campaign was that he would lower the cost of living, from grocery bills to power bills. The Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) is essential for lowering the power bills of millions of hardworking American families in a timely manner, compared to longer term efforts to add new generation

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capacity to the grid. SCEP houses the Weatherization Assistance Program, which services approximately 32,000 homes every year and has helped improve the lives of more than 7.2 million families, each of whom now save an average of \$372 every year. SCEP also uses home energy rebates, as directed by Congress, to give directly to consumers to upgrade their homes and lower their electricity bills. The State Energy Program (SEP) is also located within SCEP, and provides funding to states to develop and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives to meet rising energy demand in the most affordable ways. The President's Budget proposes to eliminate funding for SCEP entirely, leaving homeowners on the hook to deal with the aftermath of a reckless withdrawal of support for renewable energy and low-income assistance programs. Can you explain, in detail, precisely how the administration plans to support American families struggling with electricity bills this year? Can you also explain why measurably successful efforts such as weatherization are being completely dismissed by this administration? Please include the effect of the destruction of millions of American jobs in the energy sector due to actions supported by this administration in reconciliation.

Response: Senator, I share your commitment to lowering energy costs for American families. Reducing household energy burdens must be a core priority of any national energy strategy, and I believe we must pursue solutions that deliver measurable savings, particularly for low- and moderate-income households. If confirmed, I will focus on practical, fiscally responsible steps that help families lower their energy bills, including advancing cost-effective efficiency measures, working with states and communities, and leveraging public-private partnerships to reduce upfront costs for home upgrades and grid reliability.

Question 2: Efforts to enhance energy efficiency are important tools to manage increased energy demand, which you have acknowledged is a problem the US is facing. What then justifies the proposed dramatic cuts to the DOE's energy efficiency efforts, during a time when Donald Trump insists we are in an "energy emergency?"

Response: If confirmed, my priority will be to assess how we can maximize the impact of the resources – especially in ways that strengthen grid performance, reduce energy waste, and help families and businesses save money in the near term.

Question 3: EERE's work has dramatically reduced consumer costs for electricity - for instance, cutting rooftop solar prices by 78% since 2005. What was the role of EERE in contributing to reduction in cost of solar energy, and how will you as Assistant Secretary continue to drive down the cost of other renewable energy sources including solar and wind energy?

Response: If confirmed, I will focus on the most impactful, cost-reducing strategies – not only for solar, but across emerging and established energy technologies. This includes advancing grid integration tools, domestic manufacturing, and other innovations that strengthen reliability while delivering greater value to taxpayers and ratepayers alike.

Question 4: You have experience transforming an agricultural property outside of Fort Collins, Colorado into the largest utility-scale solar facility in the state. How will you leverage your expertise in the solar industry to continue developing and implementing solar technologies in

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your role at EERE? How will you ensure, as Assistant Secretary, that the United States will stay competitive on solar and wind energy innovations even though the Administration proposes gutting the office with a 74% budget cut?

Response: If confirmed, I will focus on practical solutions that help reduce costs, improve permitting efficiency, and accelerate deployment of affordable, reliable and secure energy sources. Regardless of budget levels, my priority will be to ensure that EERE's work delivers tangible value through efficient use of taxpayer resources and investments in technologies that can help meet our energy needs reliably and affordably.

Questions for the Record from Senator John Hoeven

Question 1: The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) at the University of North Dakota plays a critical role in the research and development that has made North Dakota into the energy powerhouse that it is today.

The EERC is a former Department of Energy (DOE) laboratory and has had a cooperative agreement with DOE's Office of Fossil Energy since 1983. This agreement allows DOE to leverage EERC's assistance and expertise on mutually beneficial projects to meet our current and future energy needs.

The FY26 budget request for DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) prioritizes research for emerging technologies, including for geothermal. There is great interest in North Dakota to leverage existing oil and gas infrastructure for geothermal power – a much-desired new baseload power resource.

If confirmed, will you commit to strengthening the relationship between EERC and the EERE office?

Response: I agree that geothermal energy represents an exciting area for further American innovation to meet our baseload energy demands. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about EERE's research and development efforts, including in geothermal, and find ways to continue collaboration with external stakeholders.

Questions for the Record from Senator Maria Cantwell

Question 1: Vehicle Technologies Office

Ms. Robertson, the recently released FY25 DOE spend plan would be devastating to the important work sponsored by the Vehicle Technologies Office by cutting the program almost 50 percent. Particularly when it comes to the next-generation battery materials R&D it sponsors at places like PNNL's Grid Storage Launchpad (GSL) and through EERE's Battery500 consortium.

What are your views on the benefits of the GSL and Battery500 consortium.

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What have these programs achieved to date and do you believe those results affirm these programs are worthwhile and wise use of taxpayers funds?

Response: I am aware that the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) brings together researchers, industry partners, and grid operators to advance grid resiliency and innovation for new battery technologies and applications. If confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on PNNL's Grid Storage Launchpad and EERE's Battery500 consortium, among other activities, and find opportunities to strengthen America's domestic supply chains.

Question 2: Energy Storage

Ms. Robertson, if confirmed, what will you do to ensure this important battery and energy storage research continues at funding levels enacted by Congress?

Response: If confirmed, I will follow the law and work to ensure DOE's obligations are upheld.

Question 3: Battery Material Sources

Ms. Robertson, do you support continuing investments and work at DOE on battery recycling and alternative battery chemistries?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to exploring EERE's role in advancing battery innovation.

Question 4: Battery Supply Chains

Ms. Robertson, given the rapidly increasing demand for energy storage solutions to support the grid, data centers, and other critical infrastructure, what steps would you take to continue fostering growth and resilience for U.S. battery supply chains, particularly for raw materials and silicon battery manufacturing, that can help end our dependence on Chinese graphite?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on EERE's capabilities in strengthening and protecting U.S. supply chains and reducing dependence on Chinese materials.

Question 5: Proposed EERE Cuts

Ms. Robertson, DOE's FY26 budget request proposes a 74 percent cut to EERE, which would devastate the many programs that support our nation's energy security. These cuts would also lead to significant job losses and capabilities at our national labs, including at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in my home state. Impacts of these cuts could include reduced ability to advance next-generation batteries, slowed efforts to reshore metals manufacturing, and perpetuating domestic supply chain vulnerabilities.

- Do you support the President's budget request to slash EERE by 74 percent?

Response: If confirmed, my priority will be to assess how we can maximize the impact of the resources – especially in ways that strengthen grid performance, reduce energy waste, and help families and businesses save money in the near term. I believe EERE can deliver on these goals while maintaining more responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

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Question 6: Cuts to PNNL

Ms. Robertson, what specific EERE supported research programs at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory do you think should continue if Congress allocates less funding to EERE?

Response: While I am not currently at the Department and have not been fully briefed on current activities, I look forward to learning more about EERE's activities and will follow the law and work to ensure DOE's obligations are upheld.

Question 7: EERE Applications

Ms. Robertson, what is your understanding of EERE's role in supporting research and development at our national laboratories, including for projects that have energy and national security applications?

Response: While I am not currently at the Department and have not been fully briefed on current activities, I understand that EERE works collaboratively with the National Laboratories on important research and development initiatives important for our energy and national security.

Question 8: Clean Energy Market Opportunities

Ms. Robertson, China already leads the world in the production of solar panels, batteries, wind turbines, and electric vehicles. Technologies that were largely pioneered and first commercialized in the U.S. Reducing funding for research and development in these spaces only increases their advantage.

- In your assessment, will the global market opportunity for clean energy technologies through 2050 be worth more or less than \$100 trillion?
- Do you support the administration's goal of abandoning U.S. competition in these technological sectors and ceding this ground, and therefore these 21st century jobs, to China?

Response: If confirmed, my goal will be to advance technologies that reduce costs for American consumers, strengthen domestic energy capabilities and ensure that taxpayer resources are used efficiently to support long-term economic growth and energy reliability. I am supportive of President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright's agenda of winning this strategic competition with China and advancing energy addition and providing affordable, reliable, and secure American energy.

Question 9: Clean Energy Tax Credits

Ms. Robertson, the Reconciliation bill that was enacted into law last week gutted clean energy incentives that were spurring billions of dollars of energy generation projects in my state. It is estimated that H.R. 1 will spike over 250 gigawatts of new wind and solar capacity, causing a catastrophic energy shortfall, raising utility bills, and slowing economic growth.

- Do you support sharply curtailing the federal tax credits that have driven the rapid expansion of wind, solar, and battery storage projects since the IRA?
- If confirmed, how would you utilize your role to replace these jobs, the economic growth, and the hundreds of gigawatts of power that will no longer come onto the grid?

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Response: I believe President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright's goals of providing affordable, reliable, and secure energy to meet anticipated growth and demand will unleash American energy dominance, and I look forward to leveraging EERE's resources to meet demand and foster economic growth.

Question 10: Wind Power

Ms. Robertson, all domestic energy sources, including wind, will be key to meeting upcoming rising energy demand needs. President Trump has claimed wind energy causes cancer, kills all the birds, and kills large numbers of whales.

- Do you agree with any of these assessments?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to delivering upon President Trump's and Secretary Wright's priority to unleash all forms of affordable, reliable, and secure American energy.

Question 11: Experience and Education

Ms. Robertson, in prior administrations, Assistant Secretaries of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy have had extensive post-graduate education in related fields such as environmental science, engineering, or energy sciences paired with decades of experience in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and/or energy policy.

- Given your lack of education and experience in these areas, how can we be confident that you will be able to effectively lead this heavily research oriented office?

Response: If confirmed, I will bring my many years of successful business, energy entrepreneurship, and project management experiences to this position and look forward to working collaboratively with the talented men and women of EERE to advance American innovation.

Question 12: Hydrogen

Ms. Robertson, one of the most widely supported energy investments by Congress has been figuring out how we can accelerate the use of hydrogen. DOE selected the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub - which was a joint application from entities in Washington, Oregon, and Montana --to serve as a national model of how an integrated, totally emission free hydrogen network.

- While this is not under the purview of EERE, do you support developing a domestic hydrogen ecosystem?
- Do you support the Hydrogen Hub program and believe it should be fully implemented?

Response: I will work to foster the continued leadership of DOE in supporting the development and successful implementation of energy technologies that deliver all forms of affordable, reliable and secure American energy. If confirmed, I will follow the law and look forward to learning more about DOE's work on hydrogen and understanding your views on the best ways to lead the world in energy innovation and technology breakthroughs.

Question 13: Science Based Decision Making

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Ms. Robertson, you testified that you believe energy policy choices should be guided by science. However, President Trump has said multiple times that wind energy, one of the technology solutions you will be responsible for promoting, is "an expensive form of energy that 'smart' countries don't use."

- What is the average levelized cost of wind energy and how does that compare to other energy generation sources according to the DOE lab analysis?
- Does science support President Trump's claim that wind and solar are "the most expensive and inefficient energy in the world?"
- Is President Trump accurate when he says that "100% of the solar panels come from China" and that their production is energy-intensive and polluting?

Response: I am not familiar with the DOE lab analysis conducted. I fully support President Trump and Secretary Wright's goals of advancing energy addition and providing affordable, reliable, and secure energy to meet growth and demand. I believe we must continue to reduce dependence on Chinese supply chains and support American manufacturing.

Question 14: Science Based Decision Making

According to a document recently posed on DOE's website, the Department is diverting federal funds away from the wind, solar and electric vehicles programs you will be charged with overseeing, in contradiction with spending levels set under the current congressionally passed budget.

- What authority is the Department using to undertake these actions which seem like a clear violation of the Impoundment Control Act?
- Will you pledge to faithfully follow the law when it comes to spending and executing programs under your jurisdiction as required by any relevant appropriations bill?

Response: I am not currently at the Department and cannot speak to actions that the Department is currently taking. Should I be confirmed, I commit to following the law.

Questions for the Record from Senator Mazie Hirono

Question 1: Do you acknowledge that when Congress has authorized and appropriated funds for programs that support clean energy projects, the Department must faithfully execute the law and expend the funds for the purposes established by Congress?

Response: If confirmed, I will follow the law.

Question 2: You described during your testimony that you are not currently at the Department of Energy (DOE). As a general matter, do you believe the federal government should regulate and limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas pollutants from power plants?

Response: I believe that American innovation and technology leadership has led to cleaner air and water, and I fully support President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright's agenda of advancing energy addition and providing affordable, reliable, and secure American energy.

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Question 3: Will you commit to complying with federal ethics rules and divest yourself of all stocks that would pose a conflict of interest if you are confirmed?

Response: If confirmed, I will comply with all laws and regulations regarding future employment for executive branch officials.

Question 4: Hawaii is the state with the highest dependence on petroleum and the highest cost of power. Hawaii's energy vulnerability affects our people, our economy, and the Department of Defense installations in our state. With the past help of the DOE, Hawaii is working to move from relying on imported oil for most of its power to using 100 percent renewable power by 2045. Companies in Hawaii are also seeking locally sourced, lower-carbon fuels for aviation and providing power for military installations. If you are confirmed, will you support Hawaii's efforts to become energy independent?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to working with your office to support delivering President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright's goals for affordable, reliable, and secure energy for Hawaii's residents and promoting American energy independence.

Questions for the Record from Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Question 1: If confirmed, will you commit to leveraging your role at DOE to improve U.S. research and development (R&D) in the recycling of critical minerals, including international cooperation to make further tech advancements and bolster our global competitiveness?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on EERE's role in advancing the development of critical minerals here in America to enhance our global competitiveness.

Question 2: Do you agree that energy efficiency standards for consumer products benefit ratepayers – saving American homes and businesses money? If confirmed, will you support continued federal support for research projects to enhance energy efficiency and develop new energy sources and options for the U.S. grid?

In recent decades, would you agree there have been continued improvements in energy efficiency, producing more efficient homes and appliances, and that these innovations have benefited from government research funding? Would you view these investments as a net positive for U.S. families and consumers?

Response: I agree that American innovation has led to continued improvements in energy efficiency. Should I be confirmed, I look forward to exploring EERE's role in advancing energy addition and providing affordable, reliable, and secure energy to the U.S. grid.

Question 3: If confirmed, how would you ensure that DOE is effectively contributing to the balance of our AI tech capabilities and the needs of states, municipalities, Tribal communities,

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and utilities who are housing or supplying the computing power that is feeding this emerging technology? And from your perspective, what is the federal government's role to support the data centers crucial to the expansion of our AI potential? And how can EERE best contribute to developing needs?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to collaborating, with state, municipal, Tribal, and utility partners to supply the necessary energy to meet AI growth and demand.

Question 4: If confirmed, will you commit to supporting the continued expansion of clean transportation technologies that help support critical mineral and battery supply chains necessary to our national defense and global competitiveness?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to leveraging EERE's resources to develop critical minerals and protecting our supply chain, which is necessary to national defense and maintaining our competitive advantage.

Question 5: If confirmed, what priorities would you bring to your Office to promote and enhance the development of geothermal technologies? Do you believe there are ways that the U.S. can further solidify leadership and standards setting for new technologies like Next-Generation Geothermal?

Response: I agree that geothermal energy represents an exciting area for further American innovation to meet our baseload energy demands. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about EERE's research and development efforts, including in geothermal, and find ways to continue collaboration with external stakeholders.

Question 6: If confirmed, how would you work to protect and grow public-private partnerships? Would you commit to broad stakeholder engagement to deliver successful technology deployment across the country?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on current public-private partnerships between EERE and the energy sector. Broad stakeholder engagement is important to maintaining American energy independence, and I look forward to exploring EERE's current partnerships and how it can meet President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright's goals.

Question 7: If confirmed, will you commit to providing me, my staff, and Nevada stakeholders with timely information regarding their status of their grants and loan contracts with your Office?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to working with your office and Nevada stakeholders on sharing information in a timely manner.

Questions for the Record from Senator John W. Hickenlooper

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Question 1: Ms. Robertson, your background is primarily in oil and gas but in this role you will be responsible for supporting a much larger set of technologies—solar, wind, storage, grid technologies, hydrogen, etc. Can you speak to the benefits low-cost solar, wind, and storage provide when combined with technologies like natural gas and nuclear?

Response: While my background includes experience in the oil and gas sector, I also have experience in a broader range of technologies – including solar, geothermal and battery storage. That combined experience reinforces my view that no single solution will meet our future energy needs. Rather, it will require integrated solutions that focus on providing affordable, reliable and secure energy sources for all Americans as we work to meet increasing energy demands.

Question 2 The President’s budget eliminates all funding for the Solar and Wind Energy offices, and DOE’s illegal spend plan slashes funding for solar, wind, hydrogen, and building technologies. Do you share the President’s view that the Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency should no longer be prioritizing renewable energy and energy efficiency?

Response: I believe EERE’s role is to invest in high-impact research and development, remove barriers to commercial deployment and ensure taxpayers resources are used wisely to deliver measurable benefits to Americans. If confirmed, my focus will be on practical solutions that align with the Department’s legal obligations and accomplish the President’s agenda to serve the long-term interests of the American people.

Question 3: Steady funding for EERE is essential to safeguarding NREL’s workforce, infrastructure, and world-class research capabilities—and to maintaining U.S. leadership in science and technology. In Fiscal Year 2024, 64 percent of NREL’s funding came from EERE, the vast majority of it supporting R&D. Do you acknowledge the serious impact the president’s proposed 74 percent cut to EERE would have on NREL?

Follow up: If enacted, how would you work to protect NREL’s workforce, infrastructure, and research capabilities?

Response: I agree that NREL is an excellent source of innovation in the way we create energy. Should I be confirmed, I will be an advocate for aligning NREL’s capabilities and workforce to accomplish the President’s agenda.

Question 4: EERE has played a central role in safeguarding our energy infrastructure from a wide range of emerging threats—including cyberattacks and natural hazards like wildfire and extreme weather. If confirmed, will you commit to sustaining and expanding EERE’s collaboration with federal, state, and local governments as well as the private sector to bolster grid security?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on EERE’s current capabilities and collaboration with federal, state, local, and private partners to enhance grid security. Grid security is national security.

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Question 5: Will you commit to strengthening EERE’s ongoing partnership with CESER and the intelligence community to address national security threats to the grid?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on EERE’s partnership with CESER and collaborating across the DOE complex to address national security threats to the grid.

Question 6: How do you view EERE’s role in anticipating and responding to evolving threats to grid reliability and resilience, especially given the rapid pace of change in energy demand and technology?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to reviewing EERE’s role in anticipating and responding to threats to grid security and resilience. I agree that energy demand and emerging technologies have increased energy needs that the grid will need to meet.

Question 7: Secretary Wright recently testified that “the next Manhattan Project is clearly AI,” and emphasized the urgent need to grow electricity supply faster than demand. Industry leaders have echoed this, citing unprecedented load growth driven by AI and data centers. Will you commit to continuing and expanding EERE and NREL’s work to support secure, affordable, and reliable integration of AI-driven electricity demand into the grid?

Response: I agree with Secretary Wright’s emphasis and characterization of AI growth and development. Should I be confirmed, I look forward to exploring how EERE and NREL can contribute to the affordable, reliable, and secure integration of AI-driven electricity demand to the grid.

Question 8: EERE’s Grid Integration (EGI) programs are essential to planning for the kinds of high-performance loads associated with AI and data clusters. Will you pledge to faithfully implement these programs and leverage the deep technical expertise at NREL and other national labs in coordination with utilities and industry?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on these programs and leveraging the expertise at DOE’s national labs, including NREL, to support the anticipated energy demand growth associated with AI.

Question 9: Given intensifying global competition, especially with China, how do you view the strategic role of EERE and NREL in maintaining U.S. technological leadership in clean energy and advanced materials?

Response: I agree that the strategic competition with China presents new challenges in energy. I believe EERE and NREL play a vital and strategic role in sustaining U.S. leadership in energy innovation and advanced materials. These capabilities support economic opportunity and national energy security, industrial resilience and the ability to respond to global challenges. If confirmed, I will prioritize investments that deliver clear public value – advancing technologies where U.S. leadership matters, reducing costs for consumers and maintaining a strong foundation of research excellence.

**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
July 9, 2025 Hearing: The Erdos, Robertson, Walsh, and Eisner Nominations
Questions for the Record Submitted to Ms. Audrey Robertson**

Question 10: EERE and NREL collaborate with companies across every major energy sector—from fossil fuels and mobility to renewables and utilities—supporting over \$350 million in joint research. Will you commit to maintaining and growing this public-private partnership model to help industry meet its innovation and decarbonization goals?

Response: Should I be confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on current public-private partnerships between EERE, NREL and the energy sector. Strengthening innovation is an important tool to maintaining American energy independence, and I look forward to exploring this model and how it can meet President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright's goals.

**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
July 9, 2025 Hearing: The Erdos, Robertson, Walsh, and Eisner Nominations
Questions for the Record Submitted to the Honorable Lanny Erdos**

Questions for the Record from Senator John Hoeven

Question 1: North Dakota has split-estate challenges where federally owned coal is co-located with state and privately-owned coal. Delays in the federal permitting process can block access to the most economic reserves, driving up mining costs that are ultimately passed on to electric consumers.

If confirmed, will you commit to improving coordination between the BLM and OSMRE to streamline this process, including conducting a single NEPA analysis, to avoid duplicative reviews and reduce permitting delays?

Response: I understand the challenges and opportunities facing industry, states, tribes and communities that depend on baseload coal for stable and reliable energy needs. As I noted at my hearing, industry and stakeholders need predictability. Ensuring efficient and effective coordination between the BLM and OSM is one important element in streamlining the NEPA processes, reducing permitting delays, and providing predictability, and one that I commit to advancing if confirmed.

Questions for the Record from Senator John W. Hickenlooper

Question 1: There are over 23,000 abandoned mines across Colorado, with around 500 polluting nearby water sources and impacting over 1,800 miles of streams. This isn't just local as 40% of headwater streams in the West are contaminated by historic mining. Mr. Erdos, if confirmed, what would you do to prioritize the cleanup of abandoned mines that threaten water quality?

Response: Addressing public health, safety and environmental impacts of abandoned mine lands, including restoration of water resources, is a principal goal of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Under SMCRA, state and tribal abandoned mine land (AML) programs establish the priorities for cleanup on their lands. If confirmed, I will partner with states and tribes to ensure their AML programs are successful in completing reclamation of these sites.



1133 Connecticut Ave, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20036
P (202) 828-2317
F (202) 828-2488
www.energyca.org

May 13, 2025

Chairman Mike Lee
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: *Energy Communities Alliance Support for Mr. Timothy John Walsh, Nominee
Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management)***

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The Energy Communities Alliance (“ECA”) respectfully requests that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources confirm Mr. Timothy John Walsh to be the new U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management) (“EM”).

ECA represents the communities adjacent to nuclear facilities, including the communities adjacent to EM cleanup sites. ECA and its local government members are committed to EM performing its cleanup mission in a safe and efficient manner. Our communities that have played such a pivotal role in hosting and supporting the sites key to U.S. national security and prosperity deserve nothing less.

ECA supports the nomination of Mr. Walsh, who would be the first political appointee in over six years to lead the EM program. ECA believes that EM should be led by a political appointee to enable the difficult decision-making that the program requires to evolve and best serve the U.S. taxpayers and the host communities. Congress and President set up the EM program to have a political leader to ensure that the leader of the program would go through the Senate confirmation process and be directly accountable to the President, the Secretary, and Congress.

EM actively cleans up the most difficult and technically challenging nuclear and hazardous waste sites around the country, all of which are in our communities. The work performed at these sites, which dates to the Manhattan Project, has resulted in a significant environmental liability that directly impacts the health and economies of the communities near DOE sites. The scope of this liability is immense – it currently costs in the hundreds of billions of dollars and represents one of the largest overall financial costs to the entire federal government. While EM has made a significant amount of progress, there are still decades to go until the current legacy cleanup mission

is accomplished, and given what still needs to be done, the program can be better positioned for long-term success.

The next EM leader needs to balance the core mission, the budget constraints and the need to decrease the large liabilities while also understanding the long-term nature of the program. Decisions made today can impact the next decade of the cleanup program at some sites. EM has the potential to accelerate, and ultimately complete, large portions of the current program in the near-term, and we believe this should be a core goal for the next program head. ECA views Mr. Walsh's leadership and decision-making ability, combined with his extensive military and private-sector experience, as key to bringing in new ideas and views to the EM program to make improvement and capitalize on this potential.

Furthermore, in light of Secretary Wright's initiative to reuse DOE sites for datacenter and energy development, Mr. Walsh's development and financing expertise will make him an ideal candidate to enable and facilitate new opportunities on former defense properties that have been cleaned up and returned to the community for beneficial reuse. We are seeing economic opportunities being created where EM sites are cleaned up and repurposed for nuclear energy, manufacturing and other key economic development projects. ECA wants to continue to see EM take liabilities and turn them into assets.

Given what EM has accomplished so far, and what remains to be completed, including the possibility of new responsibilities, now is the right time for new leadership and a foundational look at the EM program. A review of the program should include in-depth and honest assessments of the highest-risk issues at each site, as jointly agreed upon with federal and state regulators, Tribal nations and local governments. These issues include how DOE and EM are working with local governments on all aspects of cleanup, including future development strategies; how regulatory strategies and approaches are leading to tangible and lasting cleanup progress; how EM is ensuring it benefits from the best of private industry and maintains the necessary skilled workforce necessary for the long-term; and how DOE is safely and effectively managing and disposing of all waste under its responsibility, among other concerns.

Mr. Walsh seems to have the executive experience necessary for this role, and a track record of cooperating and communicating with businesses and local governments who are the current and future hosts of our nation's nuclear facilities. Communication and partnership with these entities is critical to the success of the EM mission, and ECA believes Mr. Walsh understands that creating relationships with local government leaders and industry to enable the advancement of that EM mission will assist to move the EM program for the short and long-term.

EM's greatest challenges are still to come, and work needs to begin now to address them and ensure the EM mission is completed safely, in the most comprehensive, effective and long-lasting manner. ECA believes that Mr. Walsh can bring new ideas to facilitate moving the cleanup program forward thanks to his private sector experience. As such, ECA supports Mr. Walsh's nomination as the new DOE Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management).

Support for Mr. Timothy John Walsh, Assistant Secretary (DOE EM) - Energy Communities Alliance

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Gerry".

Hon. Brent Gerry, ECA Chair
Mayor, City of West Richland, WA

cc: Seth Kirshenberg, ECA Executive Director
ECA Board of Directors
Hon. Christopher Wright, Secretary of Energy



Richland · Kennewick · Pasco · West Richland · Franklin County · Benton County · Port of Benton

May 22, 2025

Chairman Mike Lee
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: *Hanford Communities support for Mr. Timothy John Walsh, Nominee Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management)*

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

Hanford Communities respectfully requests that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources confirm Mr. Timothy John Walsh to be the new U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management) ("EM").

Hanford Communities, which represents the local governments in the Tri-Cities, WA near DOE's Hanford Site, is committed to EM performing its cleanup mission in a safe and efficient manner. That is why our community supports the nomination of Mr. Walsh, who would be the first political appointee in over six years to lead the EM program. We believe that EM should be led by a political appointee to enable the difficult decision-making that the program requires to evolve and best serve the U.S. taxpayers and the host communities. Congress and the President set up the EM program to have a political leader to ensure that the leader of the program would go through the Senate confirmation process and be directly accountable to the President, the Secretary, and Congress.

EM actively cleans up the most difficult and technically challenging nuclear and hazardous waste sites around the country, including at the Hanford Site near Tri-Cities, Washington. The work performed at these sites, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, has resulted in a significant environmental liability that directly impacts the health and economies of communities like ours who host DOE sites. The scope of this liability is immense – it currently costs in the hundreds of billions of dollars and represents one of the largest overall financial costs to the entire federal government. While EM has made a significant amount of progress, there are still decades to go until the current legacy cleanup mission is accomplished, and given what still needs to be done, the program can be better positioned for long-term success.

The next EM leader needs to balance the core mission, the budget constraints and the need to decrease the large liabilities while also understanding the long-term nature of the program. Decisions made today can impact the next decade of the cleanup program at some sites. EM has the potential to accelerate, and ultimately complete,

large portions of the current program in the near-term, and we believe this should be a core goal for the next program head. Hanford Communities views Mr. Walsh's leadership and decision-making ability, combined with his extensive military and private-sector experience, as key to bringing in new ideas and views to the EM program to make improvement and capitalize on this potential.

Furthermore, considering Secretary Wright's initiative to reuse DOE sites for data center and energy development, Mr. Walsh's development and financing expertise will make him an ideal candidate to enable and facilitate new opportunities on former federal properties that have been cleaned up and returned to communities like ours for beneficial reuse. We are seeing economic opportunities being created where EM sites are cleaned up and repurposed for nuclear energy, manufacturing and other key economic development projects. Hanford Communities and other energy communities want to see EM continue to take liabilities and turn them into assets.

Given what EM has accomplished so far, and what remains to be completed, including the possibility of new responsibilities, now is the right time for new leadership and a foundational look at the EM program. A review of the program should include in-depth and honest assessments of the highest-risk issues at each site, as jointly agreed upon with federal and state regulators, Tribal nations and local governments. These issues include how DOE and EM are working with local governments on all aspects of cleanup, including future development strategies; how regulatory strategies and approaches are leading to tangible and lasting cleanup progress; how EM is ensuring it benefits from the best of private industry and maintains the necessary skilled workforce necessary for the long-term; and how DOE is safely and effectively managing and disposing of all waste under its responsibility, among other concerns.

Mr. Walsh has the executive experience necessary for this role, and a track record of cooperating and communicating with businesses and local governments. Our communities are the current and future hosts of our nation's nuclear facilities. Communication and partnership with our community, and other energy communities, is critical to the success of the EM mission. Hanford Communities believes Mr. Walsh understands that creating relationships with local government leaders and industry to enable the advancement of that EM mission will assist to move the EM program forward in the short and long-term.

EM's greatest challenges are still to come, and work needs to begin now to address them and ensure the EM mission is completed safely, in the most comprehensive, effective and long-lasting manner. Hanford Communities believes that Mr. Walsh can bring new ideas to facilitate moving the cleanup program forward thanks to his private sector experience. As such, ECA supports Mr. Walsh's nomination as the new DOE Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management).

Sincerely,



Chuck Torelli
Chair, Hanford Communities
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Kennewick

cc: Seth Kirshenberg, ECA Executive Director
ECA Board of Directors
Hon. Christopher Wright, Secretary of Energy

CITY OF RICHLAND
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

625 Swift Boulevard, MS-4
 Richland, WA 99352
 (509) 942-7381



June 3, 2025

Chairman Mike Lee
 Senate Committee on Energy and
 Natural Resources
 304 Dirksen Senate Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich
 Senate Committee on Energy and
 Natural Resources
 304 Dirksen Senate Building
 Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support for Mr. Timothy John Walsh, Nominee – Assistant Secretary of
 Energy (Environmental Management)**

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The City of Richland, Washington, respectfully urges the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to confirm Mr. Timothy John Walsh as the new U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management) ("EM").

The City of Richland is committed to EM performing its cleanup mission in a safe and efficient manner. That is why our community supports the nomination of Mr. Walsh, who would be the first political appointee in over six years to lead the EM program. We believe that a political appointee should lead EM to enable the difficult decision-making that the program requires to evolve and best serve the U.S. taxpayers and the host communities. Congress and the President established the EM program to ensure that a political leader would oversee the program, subject to Senate confirmation and direct accountability to the President, the Secretary, and Congress.

EM actively cleans up the most difficult and technically challenging nuclear and hazardous waste sites around the country, including at the Hanford Site. The work performed at these sites, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, has resulted in a significant environmental liability that directly impacts the health and economies of communities like ours that host DOE sites. The scope of this liability is immense – it currently costs in the hundreds of billions of dollars, representing one of the federal government's largest financial obligations. While EM has made significant progress, there

are still decades to go until the current legacy cleanup mission is completed, and given what still needs to be done, the program can be better positioned for long-term success.

The next EM leader must strike a balance among the core mission, budget constraints, and long-term liabilities. Equally important is an understanding of the long-term nature of the program and the impact current decisions will have on the next decade of cleanup at various sites. EM has the potential to accelerate and ultimately complete significant portions of the current program in the near term, and we believe this should be a core goal for the next program head. Richland views Mr. Walsh's leadership and decision-making ability, combined with his extensive military and private-sector experience, as key to bringing in new ideas and perspectives that will drive improvements and capitalize on this potential.

Furthermore, considering Secretary Wright's initiative to reuse DOE sites for datacenter and energy development, Mr. Walsh's development and financing expertise will make him an ideal candidate to enable and facilitate new opportunities on former federal properties that have been cleaned up and returned to communities like ours for beneficial reuse. We are seeing economic opportunities emerge as EM sites are cleaned up and repurposed for nuclear energy, manufacturing, and other key development projects. The City of Richland and other energy communities want to see EM continue to transform liabilities into assets.

Given what EM has accomplished so far and what remains to be completed, including the possibility of new responsibilities, now is the ideal time for new leadership and a comprehensive review of the EM program. A review of the program should include in-depth and honest assessments of the highest-risk issues at each site, as jointly agreed upon with federal and state regulators, Tribal nations, and local governments. These issues include how DOE and EM are working with local governments on all aspects of cleanup—such as future development strategies; how regulatory approaches are producing lasting progress; how EM is leveraging private-sector expertise and maintaining a skilled workforce for long-term success; and how DOE is managing and disposing of waste effectively and safely, among other concerns.

Mr. Walsh possesses the executive experience necessary for this role and a proven track record of collaborating and communicating effectively with businesses and local governments. Our communities are the current and future hosts of our nation's nuclear facilities. Communication and partnership with our community and other energy communities are critical to the success of the EM mission. The City of Richland believes that Mr. Walsh understands creating relationships with local government leaders and industry will advance the EM mission and help move the program forward.

EM's most significant challenges are still to come, and work needs to begin now to address them and ensure the EM mission is completed safely, comprehensively, effectively, and in a lasting manner. The City of Richland believes that Mr. Walsh can bring new ideas to the cleanup program by applying insights gained through his private

sector experience. As such, the City of Richland strongly supports Mr. Walsh's nomination as the next Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

Sincerely,



Theresa Richardson, Mayor
City of Richland

Cc: Seth Kirshenberg, ECA Executive Director
ECA Board of Directors
Hon. Christopher Wright, Secretary of Energy



May 22, 2025

Chairman Mike Lee
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: *Scioto Valley-Piketon Area Council of Governments support for Mr. Timothy John Walsh, Nominee Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management)*

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The Scioto Valley-Piketon Area Council of Governments (SVPA COG) respectfully requests that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources confirm Mr. Timothy John Walsh to be the new U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management) (“EM”).

The SVPA COG’s local government members host the US DOE Portsmouth Site in Piketon, Ohio, and rely on EM to perform its cleanup mission in a safe and efficient manner. That is why our community supports the nomination of Mr. Walsh, who would be the first political appointee in over six years to lead the EM program. We believe that EM should be led by a political appointee to enable the difficult decision-making that the program requires to evolve and best serve the U.S. taxpayers and the host communities. Congress and the President set up the EM program to have a political leader to ensure that the leader of the program would go through the Senate confirmation process and be directly accountable to the President, the Secretary, and Congress.

EM actively cleans up the most difficult and technically challenging nuclear and hazardous waste sites around the country, including the US DOE Portsmouth Site in Piketon, Ohio. The work performed at these sites, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, has resulted in a significant environmental liability that directly impacts the health and economies of communities like ours who host DOE sites. The scope of this liability is immense – it currently costs in the hundreds of billions of dollars and represents one of the largest overall financial costs to the entire federal government. While EM has made a significant amount of progress, there are still decades to go until the current legacy cleanup mission is accomplished, and given what still needs to be done, the program can be better positioned for long-term success.



The next EM leader needs to balance the core mission, the budget constraints and the need to decrease the large liabilities while also understanding the long-term nature of the program. Decisions made today can impact the next decade of the cleanup program at some sites. EM has the potential to accelerate, and ultimately complete, large portions of the current program in the near-term, and we believe this should be a core goal for the next program head. The SVPA COG views Mr. Walsh's leadership and decision-making ability, combined with his extensive military and private-sector experience, as key to bringing in new ideas and views to the EM program to make improvement and capitalize on this potential.

Furthermore, considering Secretary Wright's initiative to reuse DOE sites for datacenter and energy development, Mr. Walsh's development and financing expertise will make him an ideal candidate to enable and facilitate new opportunities on former federal properties that have been cleaned up and returned to communities like ours for beneficial reuse. We are seeing economic opportunities being created where EM sites are cleaned up and repurposed for nuclear energy, manufacturing and other key economic development projects. The SVPA COG and other energy communities want to see EM continue to take liabilities and turn them into assets.

Given what EM has accomplished so far, and what remains to be completed, including the possibility of new responsibilities, now is the right time for new leadership and a foundational look at the EM program. A review of the program should include in-depth and honest assessments of the highest-risk issues at each site, as jointly agreed upon with federal and state regulators, Tribal nations and local governments. These issues include how DOE and EM are working with local governments on all aspects of cleanup, including future development strategies; how regulatory strategies and approaches are leading to tangible and lasting cleanup progress; how EM is ensuring it benefits from the best of private industry and maintains the necessary skilled workforce necessary for the long-term; and how DOE is safely and effectively managing and disposing of all waste under its responsibility, among other concerns.

Mr. Walsh has the executive experience necessary for this role, and a track record of cooperating and communicating with businesses and local governments. Our communities are the current and future hosts of our nation's nuclear facilities. Communication and partnership with our community, and other energy communities, is critical to the success of the EM mission. The SVPA COG believes Mr. Walsh understands that creating relationships with local government leaders and industry to enable the advancement of that EM mission will assist to move the EM program forward in the short and long-term.

EM's greatest challenges are still to come, and work needs to begin now to address them and ensure the EM mission is completed safely, in the most comprehensive, effective and long-lasting manner. The SVPA COG believes that Mr. Walsh can bring new ideas to facilitate moving the cleanup program forward thanks to his private sector experience. As such, ECA supports Mr. Walsh's nomination as the new DOE Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management).



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Chandler". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Chandler, Chair
SVPA COG

cc: Seth Kirshenberg, ECA Executive Director
ECA Board of Directors
Hon. Christopher Wright, Secretary of Energy



May 30, 2025

Chairman Mike Lee
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: SRS Community Reuse Organization, LLC support for Mr. Timothy John Walsh,
Nominee Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) respectfully requests that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources confirm Mr. Timothy John Walsh to be the new U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management) ("EM").

The SRSCRO is committed to EM performing its cleanup mission in a safe and efficient manner. That is why our community supports the nomination of Mr. Walsh, who would be the first political appointee in over six years to lead the EM program. We believe that EM should be led by a political appointee to enable the difficult decision-making that the program requires to evolve and best serve the U.S. taxpayers and the host communities. Congress and the President set up the EM program to have a political leader to ensure that the leader of the program would go through the Senate confirmation process and be directly accountable to the President, the Secretary, and Congress.

EM actively cleans up the most difficult and technically challenging nuclear and hazardous waste sites around the country, including at the Savannah River Site. The work performed at these sites, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, has resulted in a significant environmental liability that directly impacts the health and economies of communities like ours who host DOE sites. The scope of this liability is immense – it currently costs in the hundreds of billions of dollars and represents one of the largest

overall financial costs to the entire federal government. While EM has made a significant amount of progress, there are still decades to go until the current legacy cleanup mission is accomplished, and given what still needs to be done, the program can be better positioned for long-term success.

The next EM leader needs to balance the core mission, the budget constraints and the need to decrease the large liabilities while also understanding the long-term nature of the program. Decisions made today can impact the next decade of the cleanup program at some sites. EM has the potential to accelerate, and ultimately complete, large portions of the current program in the near-term, and we believe this should be a core goal for the next program head. The SRSCRO views Mr. Walsh's leadership and decision-making ability, combined with his extensive military and private-sector experience, as key to bringing in new ideas and views to the EM program to make improvement and capitalize on this potential.

Furthermore, considering Secretary Wright's initiative to reuse DOE sites for datacenter and energy development, Mr. Walsh's development and financing expertise will make him an ideal candidate to enable and facilitate new opportunities on former federal properties that have been cleaned up and returned to communities like ours for beneficial reuse. We are seeing economic opportunities being created where EM sites are cleaned up and repurposed for nuclear energy, manufacturing and other key economic development projects. The SRSCRO and other energy communities want to see EM continue to take liabilities and turn them into assets.

Given what EM has accomplished so far, and what remains to be completed, including the possibility of new responsibilities, now is the right time for new leadership and a foundational look at the EM program. A review of the program should include in-depth and honest assessments of the highest-risk issues at each site, as jointly agreed upon with federal and state regulators, Tribal nations and local governments. These issues include how DOE and EM are working with local governments on all aspects of cleanup, including future development strategies; how regulatory strategies and approaches are leading to tangible and lasting cleanup progress; how EM is ensuring it benefits from the best of private industry and maintains the necessary skilled workforce necessary for the long-term; and how DOE is safely and effectively managing and disposing of all waste under its responsibility, among other concerns.

Mr. Walsh has the executive experience necessary for this role, and a track record of cooperating and communicating with businesses and local governments. Our communities are the current and future hosts of our nation's nuclear facilities. Communication and partnership with our community, and other energy communities, is critical to the success of the EM mission. The SRSCRO believes Mr. Walsh understands that creating relationships with local government leaders and industry to enable the

advancement of that EM mission will assist to move the EM program forward in the short and long-term.

EM's greatest challenges are still to come, and work needs to begin now to address them and ensure the EM mission is completed safely, in the most comprehensive, effective and long-lasting manner. The SRSCRO believes that Mr. Walsh can bring new ideas to facilitate moving the cleanup program forward thanks to his private sector experience. As such, the SRSCRO supports Mr. Walsh's nomination as the new DOE Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management).

Sincerely,



Robbie Bennett
President & CEO
SRS Community Reuse Organization
robbie.bennett@srsro.org

cc: The Honorable Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Tim Scott, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Raphael Warnock, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jon Ossoff, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Joe Wilson, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim Clyburn, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Rick Allen, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Christopher Wright, Secretary of Energy
Seth Kirshenberg, ECA Executive Director
ECA Board of Directors
SRSCRO Board of Directors



Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
Ranking Member Martin Heinrich
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Lanny Erdos as Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As the CEO of the American Coal Council (ACC), it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's selection of Mr. Lanny Erdos to serve as Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

Mr. Erdos brings more than 30 years of distinguished public service and regulatory experience to this vital role. He previously served as Director of OSMRE during President Trump's first term and held leadership roles for decades at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He also brings private sector experience from one of America's largest coal mining companies. This blend of public and private insight uniquely qualifies him to lead OSMRE effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Erdos has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977. He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable coal-based energy with strong environmental protections and the critical work of the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program, helping to remediate legacy mining sites throughout his service.

The American Coal Council is committed to advancing a future where coal continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for coal and America. As an organization, the ACC cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Erdos will champion in his leadership of OSMRE.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Erdos so he may continue this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,


Emily Arthun
Chief Executive Officer
American Coal Council

601 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20004
www.americancoalcouncil.org



To: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich

From: Ohio Coal Association

Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Re: Lanny Erdos recommendation

As the Chairman of the Ohio Coal Association, it is my honor to support President Trump's selection for the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement (OSM) Lanny Erdos.

I've had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mr. Erdos for many years and know him as a dedicated public servant both as Director of OSM during President Trump's first term, and his many years with Ohio's Department of Natural Resources. I know Mr. Erdos to also have worked for a coal company in the private sector. All this experience gives him the ability to successfully lead OSM from the get-go.

Mr. Erdos has the somewhat rare (these days) ability to work in cooperation with public and private concerns to uphold regulatory authority without a "heavy hand". I know I speak for the coal industry in Ohio enthusiastically recommending Mr. Erdos for this important position in the Federal government.

We urge this committee and the US Senate to confirm Lanny Erdos so he can begin this important work on behalf of the public. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed. Spiker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Chairman, Ohio Coal Association



July 8, 2025

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairman Lee
Ranking Member Heinrich
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Recommendation for Lanny Erdos as OSMRE Director

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA) is providing this letter of support and recommendation for Mr. Lanny Erdos regarding his nomination for the position of Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). Mr. Erdos has great depth and experience in the coal mining sector as demonstrated by his prior positions as Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources of Mineral Resource Management, and his prior role leading OSMRE as Director in 2019. Mr. Erdos has career based experience in permitting, Abandon Mine Land (AML) administration, mine safety, working with the public and industry, and interaction with sister state and federal agencies. For these reasons, Mr. Erdos would provide fiscally sound and dedicated leadership to OSMRE. The WEA supports the nomination of Mr. Erdos, and hopes his confirmation moves forward as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely, Rob Creager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Creager".

Wyoming Energy Authority Executive Director

Wyoming Energy Authority

Address: 1912 Capitol Avenue, Ste 305, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Phone: 307-635-3573

Website: www.wyoenergy.org



1401 Airport Parkway, Ste. 230 - Cheyenne, WY 82001 - (307)-635-0331

July 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Mr. Lanny Erdos as Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The Wyoming Mining Association (WMA) is a statewide trade organization that represents and advocates for 34 mining company members producing bentonite, coal, trona (natural soda ash), uranium, and lignite, as well as companies developing gold, copper, lithium and rare earths deposits. WMA also represents over 100 associate member companies, one electricity co-op, and two advanced nuclear power companies.

Wyoming has been the leading coal producing state since 1986, producing more coal than the next 5 coal producing states combined. Our resource is vast, with recent estimates giving Wyoming more than 165 billion tons of economically recoverable coal, and over 1.4 trillion tons of total coal reserves. Wyoming coal is surface mined for use as steam or thermal coal for the generation of electricity and is shipped to utilities in 26 states.

The coal industry is critical to Wyoming. The industry employs 4300 men and women with an average coal wage of over \$102 thousand per year, well above the state average. And every coal mining job supports another 2-3 jobs in the service and supply industry. The yearly financial contribution of coal mining to state and local governments in Wyoming in the form of taxes, royalties and fees is estimated at \$600 million.

WMA is honored to give its support to Mr. Lanny Erdos, President Trump's nominee to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

Mr. Erdos has over 30 plus years of dedicated public service both as Director of OSMRE during President Trump's first term, and his decades with Ohio's Department of Natural Resources. He has also served in the private sector with one America's largest coal mining companies. This experience gives him the ability to lead OSMRE on day one.

Mr. Erdos has shown deep understanding for the unique cooperative federalism framework that SMCRA envisioned when passed originally by Congress in 1977. As the Director we have the utmost confidence he will balance our nation's growing need for energy from coal (critical for the state of Wyoming), while ensuring the core environmental protections of SMCRA are

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upheld, as well as supporting the mission of the Abandon Mine Land program to clean up legacy sites as he has done during his entire career.

The Wyoming Mining Association urges the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the full US Senate to confirm Mr. Lanny Erdos in a timely manner so he can begin his important work for the American people.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards,



Travis Deti
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable John Barrasso, MD, United States Senator
The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis, United States Senator