

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Energy Chairman Bobby L. Rush
Hearing on “The Fiscal Year 2022 DOE Budget”

May 19, 2021

Today, the Subcommittee on Energy will hold a hearing on the President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Discretionary Budget Request and the Department of Energy’s (DOE) critical mission to transform and secure the nation’s energy system. It is my distinct honor to welcome Ms. Jennifer Granholm, the 16th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, to the Subcommittee on Energy for the first time. Madame Secretary, thank you for joining us for today’s discussion.

This hearing comes at a critical time, as much of the East Coast continues to struggle with fuel shortages following the cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline and after extreme weather events left millions in Texas without power just a few months ago. Madame Secretary, I would like to thank you — and the DOE team as a whole — for your steadfast leadership amid these crises. These events and their grim consequences demonstrate the importance of our energy systems and how DOE’s sector-specific expertise is indispensable to the resolution of these matters.

That is why I, along with Ranking Member Upton and other esteemed colleagues, have introduced bipartisan legislation to further strengthen DOE’s ability to respond to physical and cyber security threats. I am also working on legislation to prevent future incidents. We must take a hard look at Federal strategies to prevent attacks, enforce industry best practices and compliance, and discourage bad actors.

Moreover, it is critical that — as we consider the budget — we prioritize the United States’ energy security and resiliency. That is why I am pleased by this year’s funding request, which includes \$46.1 billion for DOE — a 10.2 percent increase from DOE’s FY 2021 enacted levels. This sizeable investment will advance crucial clean energy priorities, good-paying jobs, and U.S. efforts to deploy technologies to tackle the climate crisis.

This funding request, in addition to your installment as Secretary, and President Biden’s American Jobs Plan has delivered this nation a long awaited dose of optimism. This is in addition to the LIFT America Act and CLEAN Future Act. I look forward to our continued partnership and the Subcommittee stands ready to work with you and this Administration.

And with that, I yield the balance of my time to the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee, Mr. McNerney.