

POWER THE FUTURE

January 9, 2025

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

cc:

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chairman Johnson and Chairman Comer,

As allegations of widespread fraud among government programs in Minnesota rightly horrify the American taxpayer, on behalf of Power The Future, I write to request immediate congressional oversight of the Department of Energy (DOE) unprecedented grant and loan activity conducted during the final weeks of the Biden Administration. Based on existing information, this activity raises serious concerns regarding waste, abuse, and potential conflicts of interest that your Committees could shed additional sunlight into.

In early 2025, and in the closing days of the Biden Administration, former Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm authorized tens of billions of dollars in so-called “clean energy” grants and loan guarantees, an amount that exceeds many years of prior Department activity. These funds were rushed out the door, despite warnings from the DOE Inspector General that internal controls were insufficient and that the program should be paused pending further review¹.

Those warnings were ignored. The funds were distributed anyway.

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/Interim%20Findings%20Department%20of%20Energy%20Loan%20Programs%20Office%20Conflicts%20of%20Interest.pdf>

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Of particular concern is the allocation of approximately \$710 million² to entities in the State of New Jersey, followed closely by Secretary Granholm's acceptance of a senior role overseeing energy policy for New Jersey governor-elect Mikie Sherrill³. This troubling sequence of events raises legitimate questions about whether federal resources were deployed with political or personal considerations in mind rather than objective public interest.

This episode reflects a broader pattern increasingly familiar to the American people: oversight mechanisms function, red flags are raised, and yet taxpayer dollars are still lost, only for accountability to be discussed after the money is gone. Public confidence erodes when internal warnings are dismissed and transparency is treated as optional.

The large-scale fraud in Minnesota, where federal funds intended for public benefit were systematically abused despite warning signs, underscore the risks of allowing massive sums of taxpayer money to move with limited scrutiny. Just as lawmakers are calling for congressional investigations into Minnesota, Congress should call into question the Biden Department of Energy's late stage grantmaking in a similar fashion.

At minimum, Congress should pursue the following actions:

1. Conduct a comprehensive accounting of all DOE grants and loan guarantees approved during the final six months of the Biden Administration, including recipient identities, award amounts, and justification memoranda.
2. Review all Inspector General findings from the prior administration related to these programs, especially those that were overridden or disregarded.
3. Examine any political, professional, or financial relationships between grant recipients and senior Department of Energy officials in the prior administration.

Under the Biden Administration, green energy spending was sold to taxpayers as transparent, accountable, and carefully scrutinized. As the episode involving former Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams securing \$2 billion dollars worth of grants reveals, this was not always the case. Instead, it increasingly appears to have operated as a shield for rushed, massive federal expenditures timed to avoid meaningful review and now embedded within state and political ecosystems.

² <https://www.energy.gov/edf/articles/deal-digest-lpos-latest-conditional-commitments-help-keep-power-affordable-through-new>

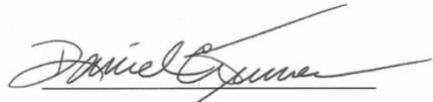
³ <https://www.nj.gov/govelect/news/20251121a.shtml>

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Congress must not allow these funds to vanish without answers. The American people deserve and expect transparency and accountability in their government, especially related to their hard-earned tax dollars.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Power The Future stands ready to assist with additional documentation or analysis as needed.

Respectfully,



Daniel Turner
Founder & Executive Director
Power The Future