

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.