

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
May 8, 2025 Hearing: The Doffermire, Jereza, and Haustveit Nominations
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Kyle Haustveit

Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Martin Heinrich

Question 1: Republicans have proposed cutting energy tax cuts as part of their reconciliation package, including cuts to provisions such as 45Q (for CCS), 45V (for hydrogen) and the renewable tax credits or tech neutral credits in sections 45Y and 48E.

How would these cuts affect the level of interest in research and development for subsurface/fossil technologies in the future?

Response: If confirmed, my focus will be on advancing American energy solutions that are affordable, reliable and secure – especially those that leverage our existing abundant energy resources here at home. While tax policy decisions ultimately rest with Congress, I believe innovation will continue where there is strong market demand, a clear regulatory framework and a commitment to leveraging America’s vast subsurface expertise.

Question 2: Enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) can potentially employ some of the technologies, equipment, tools, and infrastructure that the fossil fuel industry has already developed or is developing, such as down-well sensors and well stimulation technologies, while also potentially leveraging the knowledgeable and experienced workforce from the legacy fossil energy sectors.

How do you think we can effectively leverage the skills and experience of the oil and gas sector to additional and new resources such as geothermal in the coming energy transition?

And how will you approach this critical task in your new role if confirmed?

Response: Enhanced geothermal systems can benefit greatly from the technologies and talent developed in the oil and gas sector. The drilling expertise, downhole tools and subsurface knowledge are directly applicable. As we look to expand geothermal as a reliable energy source, it’s important to create opportunities that allow this skilled workforce and proven infrastructure to support new resource development in a cost-effective and strategic way.

Question 3: How can we effectively leverage the skills and experience of the oil and gas sector to additional and new resources such as geothermal in the coming energy transition? How will you approach this critical task in your new role if confirmed?

Response: Geothermal – especially enhanced geothermal – has strong potential as an additional energy source. The oil and gas sector’s experience with subsurface technologies makes it well-positioned to help unlock this resource’s potential. Tapping into existing expertise allows us to add reliable, domestically produced energy to the grid, while making efficient use of existing skills and infrastructure. It’s a practical approach to strengthening our energy mix and national energy security.

Question 4: Some may see your immediate background with a top natural gas producer with an interest in LNG projects as a conflict of interest.

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How will you seek to reassure members with this concern?

Response: My background gives me a clear understanding of how energy projects work in practice – technically, financially, and operationally. That perspective is valuable to ensuring DOE policies are grounded in reality and deliver results for the American people. If confirmed, I will fully comply with all ethics rules and recusal requirements and I will approach this role with integrity and transparency.

Questions for the Record from Senator Steve Daines

Question 1: Mr. Haustveit, as a graduate of Montana Tech with a strong foundation in science and engineering, you understand the importance of using research-driven approaches to bolster our electric grid. In Montana, roughly half of our electricity generation comes from coal, with the remainder generated by hydropower and other renewables. We’re actively building new natural gas capacity while also investing in wind and solar infrastructure to ensure a balanced and reliable portfolio. If confirmed to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, will you commit to working with Congress to expand electricity generation through an all-of-the-above energy strategy?

Response: I believe our energy policy should be anchored in reliability, affordability and security. Montana’s diverse energy mix – including coal, hydropower, natural gas and growing renewable resources – demonstrates the importance of leveraging what works for each region. If confirmed, I will support efforts that ensure our electricity generation is grounded in sound science, practical engineering, and long-term grid resilience, while respecting the strengths of America’s traditional and emerging sources.

Questions for the Record from Senator Maria Cantwell

Question 1: The carbon management industry has shown growth in the U.S. In just the last few years, new technologies have been introduced that reduce wildfire risk, increase the value of farmers’ and foresters’ biomass residues, and turn waste into new industrial products, including critical minerals like graphite. Companies using these technologies are creating jobs and improving the communities they work in.

- If confirmed, will you support these technologies through research and development, demonstration, and commercialization programs?
- Will you pledge that, if confirmed, the Office of Fossil Energy will create technology neutral programs that use data to decide which projects to support?

Response: I support continued research, demonstration and responsible commercialization of technologies that strengthen our energy and industrial base – especially when they reduce waste, create jobs and add value to domestic resources. If confirmed, I will advocate for a data-driven

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approach that focuses on measurable results and ensures taxpayer investments deliver real benefits to communities and our energy economy.

Questions for the Record from Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Question 1: While DOE's Office of Fossil Energy primarily focuses on fossil fuels, there are some cross-over opportunities to bolster geothermal research and development (R&D). In fact, drilling into the ground for clean heat requires many of the same technologies and capacities required to exploit oil and gas resources. So, from your perspective, do you see further opportunities for collaboration across DOE Offices and other Federal Departments to advance geothermal technologies? If so, are there any Office initiatives or policies that you'd seek to implement on geothermal?

Response: I believe there will be clear opportunities for collaboration across DOE office to advance geothermal technologies, especially where they intersect with subsurface expertise from the fossil sector. Many of the tools used for oil and gas – like directional drilling and reservoir modeling – apply directly to geothermal. While geothermal is not the core focus of the office of Fossil Energy, I support efforts to share knowledge and capabilities where it can accelerate innovation and improve the cost-effectiveness of clean heat solutions.

Question 2: Your written testimony referenced some of your experiences with early-stage startups and innovation projects. In recent years, DOE's Office of Fossil Energy has implemented programs and funds to support exploration, resource identification, production, and processing of critical minerals. If confirmed, how would you approach critical mineral investments and initiatives through your Office?

Response: My experience with early-stage innovation has shown how targeted investments can unlock new supply chains and strengthen domestic industries. If confirmed, I will support efforts within the Office of Fossil Energy that advance responsible extraction and processing of critical minerals – especially where they align with existing fossil infrastructure and workforce capabilities.

Questions for the Record from Senator John Hickenlooper

Question 1: Do you commit to the lawful disbursement of funds appropriated by Congress under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act in compliance with the Impoundment Control Act?

Response: If confirmed, I will comply with all applicable laws and statutes.

Question 2: The office of Fossil Energy includes the Division of Minerals Sustainability, which supports research, development, and demonstration projects to increase the domestic production and processing of critical minerals.

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What do you see as the Fossil Energy Office's role for securing critical minerals, and if confirmed, will you ensure the Division of Minerals Sustainability continues to support critical minerals research?

Response: If confirmed, I will support continued focus on research that strengthens U.S. resource security, reduces reliance of foreign supply chains and aligns with our broader energy and economic goals.