

Hearing On the President's FY 2023 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Energy

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Chairman Manchin's Opening Statement

- The Committee will come to order.
- I am pleased to welcome my dear friend Secretary Jennifer Granholm back to the Committee to discuss President Biden's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget request for the Department of Energy.
- Thank you for joining us this morning, Madam Secretary.
- The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is severe. Putin has used energy as a weapon to leverage power over European democracy, and intends to do the same globally, using Russia's abundant energy resources.
- So far, the U.S. has taken significant steps to counter Putin's aggression, including banning the import of Russian oil, petroleum products, LNG, and coal, while also authorizing additional LNG export capacity.
- These are critical moves to stop funding Putin's brutal war on the Ukrainian people - but there is more we can and must do.
- In a time when maintaining and strengthening our energy security is top of mind, I look forward to hearing more about how the Administration's budget request will help us achieve that goal.
- At the same time, the Department's efforts to advance critical clean energy technologies – from solar to nuclear energy and storage –

continue to transform the U.S. economy and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

- And you have some pretty historic new authorities and funding levels with which to do that.
- This Committee's work product, the Energy Act of 2020, established new pathways for research and development across the energy landscape.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law we passed late last year was a critical step to enable us to be a leader in innovating energy technology and supplying our partners with our abundant resources.
- The infrastructure law provides an all-of-the-above investment in innovation, not elimination, including funding for carbon capture, utilization, and storage; hydrogen; critical minerals; transmission; energy efficiency; clean energy manufacturing; and more.
- The Department of Energy is overseeing the implementation of \$62 billion of this funding.
- Secretary Granholm, as you saw when you visited West Virginia in March, there is so much excitement around programs like the Hydrogen Hubs and the many other programs from the infrastructure law that will have an enormous impact in the Mountain State.
- We want to ensure you have all the tools and personnel you need to get that money out the door efficiently and effectively, and I look forward to hearing about the progress the Department has made in implementing this historic legislation.

- I was glad to see several West Virginia priorities included in the Department's budget request.
- The request includes \$502 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income families make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes, freeing up finite resources for other essentials like food and medicine.
- I am pleased to see an increase in funding for the Weatherization Readiness Fund, which was funded for the first time last year and will help low-income families make the repairs to their homes that are necessary to qualify for weatherization dollars.
- The request also supports the National Energy Technology Laboratory headquartered in Morgantown, West Virginia, although I think this is an area of underinvestment. We are so proud of the work Brian Anderson and his team do to keep us on the cutting edge of energy innovation, especially technologies that will help us reduce carbon emissions without sacrificing reliability and energy security.
- We also can't sacrifice the rural economies that have produced our energy for decades.
- That is why I have been encouraged to see this Administration acknowledge the contributions of these hard-working men and women by convening an Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities.
- This working group needs dedicated funding and a long-term mission to truly make an impact on these communities who have given so much to our country. This transition will be playing out for decades.

- Creating new opportunities in coal communities means we need to use all of the tools that we have, and government investment – if done right – can be one of the most powerful.
- Now, it is no secret that I have serious concerns about our nation's debt and, as such, take my role as both an authorizer and appropriator very seriously.
- I fully believe we can get our fiscal house in order while supporting West Virginian and American priorities. I look forward to hearing from the Secretary this morning about how we can do just that.
- And with that I'll turn it over to Ranking Member Barrasso for his opening remarks.