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July 20, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I write to you regarding the Department of Energy's (Department) process for vetting and granting security clearances to Presidential appointees working within the Department. As you know, it is imperative executive branch officials, especially unelected appointees, are free of a history of conduct unbecoming of federal service.

In the interest of ensuring appointed Department officials have and continue to operate with the utmost integrity throughout the execution of their duties, I ask that you answer the following questions no later than August 3, 2022.

Sincerely,


John Barrasso, M.D.
Ranking Member

Questions

1. Who within the Department is responsible for the processing of security clearances for Presidential appointees?
 - a. Please provide all relevant Departmental guidance and standard operating procedures for the clearance process related to all categories of Presidential appointments.
2. Does the Department interface with the intelligence community to aid in the execution of the clearance process?
 - a. If so please list the relevant agencies and the nature of coordination specific to each agency.
3. If issues of concern arise during the clearance process specific to an appointee, does the Department notify the Office of Presidential Personnel?
4. Does the Department currently employ any appointees that have had security issues flagged by the Department itself or any intelligence community agencies?
 - a. If so, please provide a list of the appointees who have been flagged.
 - i. Additionally, please provide the following information for each individual:
 1. Their position within the Department
 2. Whether or not they received a clearance
 - a. If so, the issuance date of the clearance
 3. How their respective security issue(s) were addressed