

**Opening Statement for Dan Brouillette,  
Nominee to be U.S. Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Confirmation Hearing  
November 14, 2019**

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, members of the committee and staff, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be Secretary of Energy.

I would like to thank each of you for being strong partners of the Department through the years, and for your time today. I look forward to continuing to work with each of you in the future, if confirmed. I'd also like to thank President Trump for his trust, and Secretary Perry for his outstanding leadership of the Department.

Sitting behind me today is my incredible family, who have been my support system every step of the way. Most of you know that I have a big family, so I won't name all of them. But, I will say thank you to my wife Adrienne, who I could never thank enough for her love and support throughout the years.

As Deputy Secretary, I am proud to have been a part of the incredible success we have seen in American energy under this Administration.

DOE and its 17 National Laboratories play a central role in advancing America's leadership in scientific research and development, energy technology, and nuclear security. This enterprise is powered by our Nation's most talented and dedicated innovators, including [117 Nobel Laureates](#) associated with DOE. Seated behind me are some of the Directors from our National Laboratories, who I would like to recognize for their incredible leadership.

In addition to DOE's historical role, we have established two new offices to bolster our efforts in Cybersecurity and emergency response, as well as Artificial Intelligence. We've committed to build three new exascale machines, and, following the leadership of this committee's development of the National Quantum Initiative, we're evolving our quantum science capabilities.

When this team entered the Department of Energy, America ranked number three in the world in Supercomputing, behind China and Switzerland. We knew America could do better, so we prioritized Supercomputers in the budget, and with the support of Congress, we increased funding by 42% overall since the last Administration. We built the world's two fastest supercomputers, Summit at Oak Ridge Lab and Sierra at Lawrence Livermore. Now we are back at number one.

Our researchers are tackling the world's greatest energy and scientific questions, and constructing the next-generation of world-class science facilities that are the incubators for cutting edge R&D. To better deliver this technology to market, we established the first ever Chief Commercialization Officer at DOE, tasked with ensuring the taxpayer-funded discoveries at our Labs make their way to commercialization.

That's the power of discovery.

Through the power of innovation, the U.S. is leading the world in both energy production and the reduction of emissions. America has become the world's top producer of oil and natural gas, and we will soon become a net energy exporter.

Under this Administration, we have sent American LNG to 36 countries, and our export capacity has *quintupled*.

Our energy story also includes historic growth in renewable energy. Today, America is the second highest generator of wind and solar energy in the world. We're reviving and revitalizing nuclear energy by developing advanced technologies such as small modular reactors.

And we're expanding the use of clean energy through efforts ranging from establishing a Clean Energy Manufacturing Institute, launching the Lithium-ion Battery Recycling Prize, and an upcoming Plastics Innovation Challenge. All of this has positively impacted the climate.

Since 2005, national greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 13%, and power sector emissions have fallen by 27.6% according to EPA. That is something we are very proud of.

As we pursue this all-of-the-above energy strategy, we must continue to protect our energy infrastructure. So we've developed the North American Energy Resilience Model, a first-of-a-kind tool that will allow us to better understand infrastructure risks and improve system resilience.

While we are developing and protecting our energy infrastructure, we are also making sustained progress in cleaning up the nation's legacy of nuclear waste.

As we honor the obligations of yesterday, we must prepare for the threats of tomorrow and strengthen our nuclear security. We have modernized our nuclear enterprise, from opening new data centers to updating the W76-1 Life Extension Program.

This progress is substantial, but we have more to do. DOE is poised to play an important role in developing a brighter future for America. I look forward to focusing on DOE's mission in energy security, scientific discovery, environmental stewardship, and national security.

I commit to each of you today that if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will work earnestly with you to address the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin, thank you again for the opportunity to be here. I ask the committee for your favorable consideration of the President's nomination, and I look forward to answering your questions.