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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
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March 1, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Granholm,

In January 2023, the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) and the Climate and Community Project published a report entitled *Achieving Zero Emissions with More Mobility and Less Mining*. This report advocates for “reordering the US transportation system through policy and spending shifts to prioritize public and active transit while reducing car dependency.” The report concludes that in order to reduce our need for lithium, Americans should move to cities and avoid buying cars.

The notion that the government should tell people where to live or how to get around is on its face ridiculous. In my home state of Wyoming, people rely on their cars to cross the vast stretches of highway between towns, over plains, and through the mountains. People live in Wyoming because they want to get away from federal overreach, not to have Washington bureaucrats dictate their lifestyles.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is listed as a “Partner” of UC Davis’s Energy and Efficiency Institute. Each of the UC Davis staff members credited with writing this anti-car and anti-mining report are involved in UC Davis’s Energy and Efficiency Institute. Additionally, Shalanda Baker, Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, is listed on the Climate and Community Project’s website as a member.

This prompts several questions about DOE’s involvement in such areas of study. DOE should be promoting American industries and American energy, not stifling growth and constraining the choices of individual consumers.

I have attached a series of questions to the end of this letter. In order to keep the American taxpayer apprised of how their money is being spent, please answer each question thoughtfully and respond by March 17, 2023.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.
Ranking Member

Questions for Secretary Granholm

1. Does the Biden Administration support reducing the number of cars in the United States?
2. Does the Biden Administration support increasing urban populations by reducing rural populations?
3. Is the Biden Administration supportive of lithium mining in the United States? If not, why?
4. Please list every grant awarded by DOE to an organization that promotes “reducing car dependency” and provide all associated documentation.
5. Please list every study by a DOE employee, office, national laboratory, or grant recipient about “reducing car dependency” and provide all associated documentation.
6. Is the Biden Administration supportive of reducing mineral production by eliminating the need for cars?
7. The Climate and Community Project’s website lists DOE’s Shalanda Baker as a member. What is her role as a member?
 - a. Was Ms. Baker a member of the Climate and Community Project at the time of publication?
 - b. Was Ms. Baker involved in the writing of this report? If so, please describe her contributions.
 - c. Has Ms. Baker’s office conducted or sponsored any research into reducing mining or car dependency?