

**Hearing On the President's FY 2022 Budget Request for the
Department of Energy**

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Chairman Manchin's Opening Statement

- The committee will come to order.
- Secretary Granholm, thank you for joining us today.
- It's a pleasure to welcome you for your first budget hearing before this committee as the Secretary of Energy.
- I also want to thank you again for coming to West Virginia a few weeks ago.
- West Virginia truly is an energy powerhouse, from the incredible innovations at the National Energy and Technology Laboratory and West Virginia University to the coal mines that keep the lights on and have powered our nation for generations. I was so pleased you could experience all of that in just a few short days in the Mountain State.
- You are welcome back any time and I hope you will visit again soon.
- Secretary Granholm, as former Governors, we both know that a budget should be two things: fiscally responsible and a reflection of our values and our priorities.
- I look forward to hearing more about this Administration's priorities when it comes to our nation's energy policy.
- Last year, Congress clearly laid out several of our energy priorities when we passed the Energy Act of 2020.
- The Energy Act was the first comprehensive update to our nation's energy policy in thirteen years. It enjoyed broad bipartisan support, with nearly 70 senators sponsoring or cosponsoring provisions included in the bill.
- It prioritized research, development, demonstration, and commercialization of next-generation technologies at the Department of Energy.

- These are the innovations that will be necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and the power and industrial sectors, which accounted for 62% of our emissions in 2018, while creating jobs and keeping American energy affordable and globally competitive.
- If we are going to be able to maintain our energy independence and combat climate change, the way to do it is through innovation, not elimination.
- Our bill contained \$35.2 billion in authorizations for RD&D activities across DOE's portfolio over the next five years, including over \$7.6 billion for Fiscal Year 2022, to ensure the United States remains on the cutting edge of innovation and can lead the world.
- While I am disappointed that the President's budget request does not appear to include full funding for the Energy Act, it does provide strong support in some vitally important areas.
- For example, I was pleased to see a \$140 million-plus up from FY 21 enacted levels for the Fossil Energy Office and strong support for the National Energy Technology Laboratory, including \$25 million for the design and construction of a Direct Air Capture facility.
- While that falls short of what we included in the Energy Act, with 1,063 coal-fired power plants planned around the world – none in the United States – it is imperative that we lead the world in getting technologies like carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration commercialized and I'm encouraged by this showing of support for the Fossil Energy Office to do just that.
- The budget request also provides over \$400 million to develop widely available cost-competitive technologies for the production, storage, and delivery of hydrogen, which is an area of great potential to help decarbonize several sectors of the economy without increasing our reliance on other countries, like China.

- It also includes \$400 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes, freeing up finite resources for other essentials like food and medicine.
- As markets and other forces transition our energy mix, we cannot leave behind the workers who powered our nation to greatness.
- We must ensure these workers have every opportunity in the world to succeed in a clean energy future.
- So I was also pleased to see that the budget request includes support for the new Office of Energy Jobs, which is a welcome and much needed addition to the Department.
- Secretary Granholm, I want to thank you again for being here today and for all you do at DOE and for our country.
- As both an authorizer and appropriator, I look forward to hearing from you today about the Administration's priorities for the Department of Energy.
- With that, I'll turn it over to Ranking Member Barrasso for his opening statement.