

HEARING ON GOV. GRANHOLM'S NOMINATION TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

- Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am very grateful for your courtesy in allowing me to preside this morning, even though you are still the Chair. It is one more example of the kindness and consideration you have always shown me and the grace with which you have led this Committee.
- I want to take a moment before we begin to thank you not only for your courtesy this morning, but for your great service to our Committee, for the past 6 years as our Chair, but for the 6 years before that as the Ranking Republican Member.
- I believe two other Republicans, one of whom was your father, chaired the Committee for as long, but no other Republican has matched your total 12 years as Chair and Ranking Member.
- I am especially honored to have worked with you over the past two years.
- We were able to enact not only the first omnibus public lands bill in five years, but also the first omnibus energy bill

in 13 years, and provide mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and maintenance on public lands.

- Enacting any of these would have been a major achievement.
- Enacting all in the same Congress was historic, and will be a lasting testament to your leadership and commitment to working together.
- I would also like to welcome and congratulate Senator Barrasso, who is poised to become our new Ranking Member once the Senate adopts the organizing resolution.
- As Chairman, I look forward to carrying on the Committee's longstanding bipartisan tradition in ensuring the nation's energy security and the wise use of our natural resources.
- Even though both Senator Barrasso and I must wait for the Senate to adopt the organizing resolution before we officially assume our new roles, the Committee's obligation to do the public's business continues.
- So I am grateful to Senator Murkowski for convening us this morning to consider the nomination of Governor Jennifer Granholm to be the nation's 16th Secretary of Energy.
- Welcome, Governor Granholm, to you and to your husband, Dan, who is here with you today, and thank you for your

willingness to serve our country.

- Congress created the office of the Secretary 44 years ago at a time of crisis, when the nation faced severe energy shortages and disruptions.
- The idea was to consolidate the federal government's energy functions in the Secretary's hands so that she could ensure the effective management and administration of the nation's energy policies and programs.
- But the job is even bigger than that.
- The Secretary is responsible for overseeing the nation's nuclear arsenal, and ensuring that our nuclear deterrent remains secure and effective. She is responsible for making the fuel that propels the nuclear Navy, and guarding our nation against nuclear proliferation.
- She must manage the world's most challenging environmental cleanup at Hanford and at other Cold War nuclear sites, and oversee our four power marketing administrations, which supply electricity from federal dams to customers in 34 states.
- And she is responsible for leading the world's premier science and technology enterprise—the 17 national

laboratories we depend for the scientific discoveries and technological innovations we need to meet our energy need and to keep America strong and secure.

- I am delighted that President Biden has nominated Governor Granholm for this important position. I have known Jennifer since we served as Governors together more than a decade ago.
- She served two terms as Governor of Michigan during an especially challenging time in her state's history—as it weathered the Great Recession and the collapse of the auto industry.
- She was up to that challenge. She helped save the auto industry. She diversified Michigan's economy, brought in new investment and new industries, and created new jobs.
- She demonstrated in Michigan the vision and leadership that we need to tackle the challenges we now face at the national level – including tackling climate change while ensuring no worker is left behind and our energy security remains uncompromised.
- We are very fortunate to have such a well-qualified and talented nominee for the important position of Secretary of Energy.

- I whole-heartedly support her nomination and am very pleased to welcome her to the Committee.