BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S., Texas
CHAIRMAN

ZOE LOFGREN, California
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6301
(202) 225–6371
http://science.house.gov

November 12th, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C., 20585

Dear Secretary Wright,

Pursuant to Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology "shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development."[1] The Committee possesses jurisdiction over "all energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories," as well as the "commercial application of energy technology."[2] The Committee is engaged in oversight related to a number of activities at the Department of Energy, including but not limited to: DOE's termination of awards in 2025; DOE's creation of the "Climate Working Group" in 2025; and DOE's decision to place Cathy Tripodi, a political appointee, on paid administrative leave for nearly nine months in 2025 and 2026. This letter serves to formally advise DOE that it must take immediate steps, as required by law and regulation, to preserve all Department records and prepare to make those records available to the Committee upon request.

The Federal Records Act (44 U.S.C. § 3301 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated to implement it require the head of each federal agency to safeguard against the removal or loss of agency records. Records and documentation regarding policies, decisions, procedures, transactions, and deliberations are subject to these statutory preservation requirements. The requirement to preserve records extends to applicable government documents and communications on personal property and in encrypted electronic messaging applications. Additionally, other records of interest may be covered by The Presidential Records Act (44 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq.).

[1] 119 First Session House Rules.
[2] *Id.*

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Josh Schneider or Sara Palasits with the Committee's Minority staff at (202) 225-6375. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

CC: Chairman Brian Babin
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology