

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2025

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

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Wright and Director Vought:

We write to express our outrage at the unlawful cancellation of nearly \$8 billion of crucial Department of Energy grants supporting projects which, if reinstated, would make our country's electric grids, industrial processes, and workforce stronger, safer, and more resilient.

On October 1, 2025, OMB Director Russell Vought claimed that the \$7.6 billion cancellations were "Green New Scam" projects benefiting only Democratic climate priorities, yet over \$2 billion in funding has been pulled from Republican-represented districts in California alone. These projects were set to promote energy reliability, affordability, and safety for Americans. Clearly, the administration is not really working toward a "Golden Era of American Energy Dominance", and instead is focused on vindictive, destructive actions that will keep us dependent on innovations and expertise from foreign competitors and further raise costs for American families.

On October 3, 2025, California's Senators decried the cancellation of one of the State's most important projects for the next generation of energy technology: \$1.2 billion for California's Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy (ARCHES) Hydrogen Hub. The full list of cancelled grants and awards recently released by the Department of Energy (DOE) worsens this egregious, vindictive action by the DOE and cancels additional crucial projects, totaling almost \$7.6 billion in investments toward energy reliability, innovation, and affordability.

In many cases, projects are being cancelled despite being aligned with the Administration's stated priorities. For example, DOE is cancelling critical energy storage projects which would add "dispatchable capacity," exactly what DOE has claimed it wants to prioritize. One such cancelled project would provide \$30 million to build long-duration energy storage capacity for Valley Children's Hospital in Madera, CA. Valley Children's is a critical facility in the Central Valley that serves 1.3 million children and provides the Valley's only children's hospital with an Emergency Medicine facility as well as the Valley's only Level IV NICU facility for critically ill newborns. The cancelled project would have added vital, dispatchable backup power to critical hospital operations. Nevertheless, the DOE seems to believe that the welfare of children in the Central Valley is inconsistent with the Trump Administration's priorities.

Cancelled projects also include critical improvements to grid reliability and affordability. For instance, \$13 million was clawed back from Liberty Utilities' Leapfrog program to improve service and reliability for communities, particularly rural communities. A number of these cancelled projects go beyond critical improvements to the grid. Some of the country's most innovative industrial projects have also been axed, including groundbreaking improvements in cement and glass manufacturing aimed at protecting clean, breathable air in communities as well as providing key workforce development to create and train for good-paying jobs. These include \$75 million for the Gallos Glass Project and \$500 million for the National Cement Company of California's Lebec Net-Zero Project. These projects in Republican-represented districts have not been spared from these unlawful terminations that will only hurt hard-working American families and leave us even further away from securing "Energy Dominance."

Even projects intended to support clean, safe oil and gas use and processing to secure "firm, dispatchable capacity" are being threatened by the Administration's reckless cancellations. Carbon capture and storage is a promising approach to reducing the emissions footprint of traditionally carbon-intensive processes and products. Projects like the Kern County Community College District's Direct Air Capture hub have been unceremoniously cancelled despite providing research, workforce training, and technological support to this developing technology.

Many of these projects had already begun implementation, and their cancellation abandons hardworking Americans for the sake of cheap, partisan retribution. The DOE's \$7.6 billion in cancellations do not bring our country any closer to American Energy Dominance. Instead, they threaten the country's progress toward reliable, resilient, and affordable energy for all and undermine thousands of American jobs along the way.

We urge you to reinstate funding for California's projects. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress  
Chair, California Democratic  
Congressional Delegation



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Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



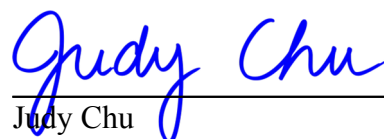
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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



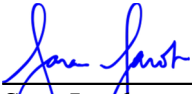
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



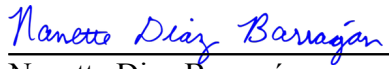
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



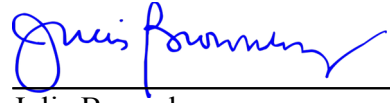
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



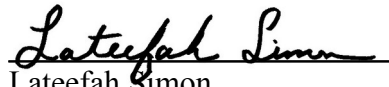
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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



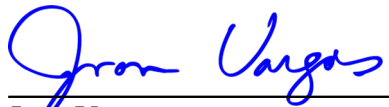
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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



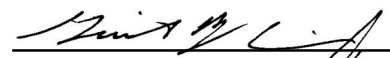
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress




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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



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Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress