

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 14, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

On May 12, 2021, we wrote to you requesting information relating to your investment in Proterra, Inc., to determine whether a conflict of interest existed.¹ Nine months later, Committee Republicans have still not received any of the documents we requested.² The sole response from the Department of Energy (DOE) on June 29, 2021, stated that you had “acted in full accordance with the comprehensive ethical standards set by the Biden Administration[.]”³ However, a recent *Insider* report reveals that you did in fact violate federal conflict of interest laws before we received the letter.⁴ The contradiction between DOE’s response to our initial letter and your eventual disclosure of violating the law raises additional concerns about a lack of transparency at DOE and whether you take your ethical obligations seriously.

As *Insider* reports, you made nine stock trades between April 30, 2021, and October 26, 2021, including shares of at least one government contractor, and failed to disclose them in accordance with the STOCK Act.⁵ The trade you made on April 30, 2021 was required to be

¹ Letter from Ralph Norman, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Env’t, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Jennifer Granholm, Sec., Dep’t of Energy (May 12, 2021).

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Eric Fygi, Deputy Gen. Couns., Dep’t of Energy to Ralph Norman, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Env’t, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (June 29, 2021).

⁴ Warren Rojas, *Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm Acknowledges Late Stock Filings, and Says She Paid \$400 for Violating Federal Conflict-of-Interest Law*, INSIDER (Feb. 3, 2022, 10:41 AM); Letter from Rep. Ralph Norman, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Env’t, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Jennifer Granholm, Sec., Dep’t of Energy (May 12, 2021).

⁵ Warren Rojas, *Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm Violated a Federal Conflict-of-Interest Law by Improperly Disclosing Stock Sales*, INSIDER (Jan. 20, 2022, 1:14 PM); Christina Wilkie, *Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm Violated a Stock Disclosure Law Nine Times Last Year*, CNBC (Jan. 20, 2022, 4:46 PM); Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 6, 126 Stat. 291, 293.

reported 45-days after the transaction.⁶ Nonetheless, when your staff responded to our letter on June 29, 2021, the statutory deadline for disclosure had already passed.⁷ In fact, you were already in violation of the STOCK Act when your staff informed Committee Republicans that you were in “full accordance” with ethical standards.⁸ This lack of transparency is troubling.

We must ensure that government officials are complying with all federal ethics laws, particularly members of President Biden’s cabinet. In order for Committee Republicans to better understand if there is a conflict of interest or a statutory violation relating to your prior or current investments, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible but no later than February 28, 2022.

1. All documents and communications from January 20, 2021, to present related to Secretary Granholm’s divestiture of Proterra, Inc., stocks.
2. All documents and communications from January 20, 2021, to present related to Secretary Granholm’s \$400 late fee payment for violating the STOCK Act.
3. All documents and communications from January 20, 2021, to present related to the planning of the virtual visit that President Biden took to the Proterra electric plant on April 20, 2021.
4. All documents and communications from January 20, 2021, to present between the Department of Energy and the White House regarding President Biden’s American Jobs Plan.
5. All of Secretary Granholm’s OGE Form 278E filings.
6. All OGE 278-T forms Secretary Granholm filed related to Proterra, Inc.

To ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

⁶ Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 6, 126 Stat. 291, 293.

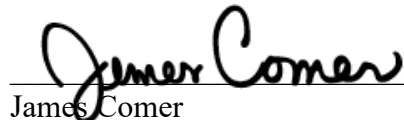
⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 6, 126 Stat. 291, 293; Letter from Eric Fygi, Deputy Gen. Couns., Dep’t of Energy to Ralph Norman, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Env’t, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (June 29, 2021).

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Environment



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



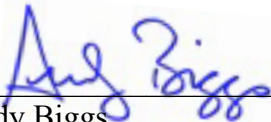
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



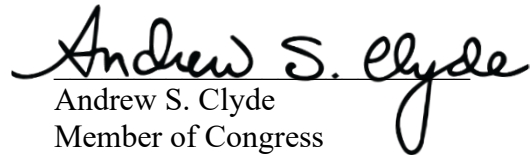
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



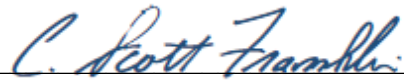
Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



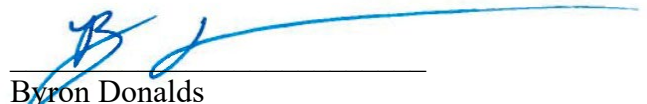
Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment