

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 27, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Granholm:

I write to invite you to testify at a hearing before the Committee on Oversight and Accountability to be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building. This hearing will enable members of the Committee to conduct general oversight over the activities of the Department of Energy under your leadership, to include rulemaking by the Department, oversight mechanisms for grants and loan authorities administered by the Department, and the interaction of Biden Administration policies with energy supply chains and grid reliability and security.

In the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee has written you to request information regarding the increased risk of waste, fraud, and abuse at the Department,<sup>1</sup> the misuse of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR),<sup>2</sup> your taxpayer-funded summer 2023 electric vehicle road trip,<sup>3</sup> and the Biden Administration's pause on liquified natural gas (LNG) exports.<sup>4</sup> The Committee has held hearings with Department witnesses on topics including increased Department spending

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, and Pat Fallon, Chairman, S. Comm. on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, to Jennifer Granholm, Sec'y, Dep't of Energy (Mar. 22, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, and Pat Fallon, Chairman, S. Comm. on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, to Jennifer Granholm, Sec'y, Dep't of Energy (Apr. 4, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, and Pat Fallon, Chairman, S. Comm. on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, to Jennifer Granholm, Sec'y, Dep't of Energy (Sept. 26, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, *et al.*, to Jennifer Granholm, Sec'y, Dep't of Energy (Mar. 18, 2024).

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levels,<sup>5</sup> energy efficiency standards,<sup>6</sup> critical minerals,<sup>7</sup> and nuclear energy.<sup>8</sup> The expansive nature of these topics and your direct involvement as the leader of the Department necessitates your participation in this hearing.

My staff first conveyed to the Department my intention to invite you to a hearing in March by contacting your staff on January 23, 2024.<sup>9</sup> Two months have now gone by since that first outreach. Yet despite numerous interactions between our staffs, the Department continues to fail to provide your availability for proposed hearing dates or specific details as to why you would be unavailable.

Specifically, the Department declined to make you available for the proposed date of March 6, asserting that you would not be available on that date.<sup>10</sup> The Department has now declined to provide your availability for proposed dates of April 30, May 1,<sup>11</sup> May 15 or 16, and June 12 or 13.<sup>12</sup> The Department has indicated to my staff that the Department will only make available the Deputy Secretary to testify on the proposed dates in May or June and continues to fail to provide your availability upon request.<sup>13</sup>

Instead of the customary two-week advance notice of a hearing for executive branch witnesses,<sup>14</sup> I instructed my staff to work with the Department well in advance to ensure your availability to appear for a hearing. It is unacceptable that over the course of two months, for dates provided by the Committee months into the future, the Department is unable to perform a basic scheduling function to confirm whether you are available or not available. To avoid any further delay in scheduling this hearing, and to reiterate my invitation for you to testify as opposed to a subordinate official, I now write to you directly to invite you to appear.

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<sup>5</sup> *Spending on Empty: How the Biden Administration's Unprecedented Spending Increased Risk of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse at the Department of Energy*, Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, S. Comm. on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, 118th Cong. (Apr. 18, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> *Cancelling Consumer Choice: Examining the Biden Administration's Regulatory Assault on Americans' Home Appliances*, Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, S. Comm. on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, 118th Cong. (July 18, 2023).

<sup>7</sup> *Digging Deeper: Ensuring Safety and Security in the Critical Mineral Supply Chain*, Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, S. Comm. on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, 118th Cong. (Nov. 30, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> *The Next Generation: Empowering American Nuclear Energy*, Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, S. Comm. on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, 118th Cong. (Jan. 18, 2024).

<sup>9</sup> E-mail from Committee Staff to Department of Energy Staff (Jan. 23, 2024), *on file with Committee staff*.

<sup>10</sup> E-mail from Department of Energy Staff to Committee Staff (Feb. 5, 2024), *on file with Committee staff*.

<sup>11</sup> E-mail from Department of Energy Staff to Committee Staff (Feb. 29, 2024), *on file with Committee staff*.

<sup>12</sup> E-mail from Department of Energy Staff to Committee Staff (Mar. 21, 2024), *on file with Committee staff*.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*; see also E-mail from Department of Energy Staff to Committee Staff (Mar. 7, 2024), *on file with Committee staff*.

<sup>14</sup> See Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: *Procedures Governing Responses to Congressional Requests for Information* (Nov. 4, 1982).

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To confirm your appearance at the hearing, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability staff at (202) 225-5074 by April 3, 2024. Please provide your written testimony at least two business days prior to the hearing. You will have the opportunity to provide a five-minute opening statement prior to answering questions posed by Members.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability