

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 23, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is planning to give at least 20 metric tons of weapons-usable plutonium—enough for approximately 2,000 nuclear bombs—to private industry for commercial energy use. I have previously urged you to cancel these misguided plans, which go against long-standing, bipartisan U.S. nuclear security policy and raise serious weapons proliferation concerns.¹ Now, it also appears that a serious conflict of interest may exist within your Administration on this issue because the plutonium transfer will benefit Secretary of Energy Chris Wright's former company. Accordingly, in addition to my concerns about proliferation, I have questions about the propriety of the transaction.

Oklo Inc., a nuclear technology start-up, is the main company interested in receiving plutonium from DOE.² Oklo is also, with DOE's support, building a \$1.7 billion reprocessing plant in Tennessee.³ Your Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright, served on the Board of Directors of Oklo until his confirmation in February.⁴ In 2024, Wright and his wife also made contributions to your presidential campaign totaling about \$458,000 and made contributions to the Republican National Committee of about \$330,400.⁵ In the first quarter of 2025, Oklo increased its lobbying expenditures by 500% compared to the same period last year.⁶

¹ Letter from Senator Edward J. Markey, Representative John Garamendi, and Representative Donald Beyer to President Donald J. Trump (Sept. 10, 2025),

https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/plutonium_transfer_to_private_industry.pdf.

² Alan J. Kuperman, *U.S. Nuclear Energy Policy Could Accelerate Weapons Proliferation*, *Scientific American* (July 30, 2025), <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/u-s-nuclear-energy-policy-could-accelerate-weapons-proliferation/>.

³ Press Release, Oklo, *Oklo Announces Fuel Recycling Facility as First Phase of up to \$1.68 Billion Advanced Fuel Center in Tennessee* (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://oklo.com/newsroom/news-details/2025/Oklo-Announces-Fuel-Recycling-Facility-as-First-Phase-of-up-to-1-68-Billion-Advanced-Fuel-Center-in-Tennessee/default.aspx>.

⁴ Press Release, Oklo, *Oklo Announces Board Transition Following Chris Wright's Confirmation as Secretary of Energy* (Feb. 6, 2025) <https://oklo.com/newsroom/news-details/2025/Oklo-Announces-Board-Transition-Following-Chris-Wrights-Confirmation-as-Secretary-of-Energy/default.aspx>.

⁵ Dave Anderson, *Chris Wright: Trump's Pick for Energy Secretary Is a Longtime Member of Charles Koch's Political Donor Network*, *Energy and Policy Institute* (Jan. 14, 2025), <https://energyandpolicy.org/chris-wright-energy-secretary-charles-koch/>.

⁶ Martha Muir, *US Nuclear Sector Intensifies Lobbying in Bid to Prevent Subsidy Cuts*, *Financial Times* (May 18, 2025), <https://www.ft.com/content/c243fd15-bef8-4c98-b06b-8b13ddd0a701>.

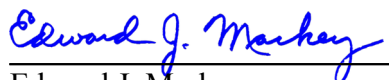
I am concerned that your Administration is moving forward with plans to transfer plutonium to Oklo and allow it to build a reprocessing plant not because these proposals make sense for the United States, but because Oklo stands to benefit financially and Secretary Wright is acting in his former company's interest. Given Secretary Wright's close ties to the company, Oklo's nuclear projects present an appearance of impropriety.

In light of these serious concerns, please reply to the following questions in writing by September 30, 2025:

1. What role did Secretary Wright play in the decisions to supply weapons-usable plutonium to private industry and allow Oklo to build a reprocessing plant in Tennessee?
2. Does Secretary Wright currently have a financial stake in Oklo?
3. Has Secretary Wright recused himself from all DOE decisions regarding Oklo? If not, why not?
4. Has DOE reached an agreement to provide plutonium to Oklo?
5. Is DOE involved with other contracts involving Oklo? If so, please provide information on specific project details and contract values.
6. Are there other senior officials in DOE with connections to Oklo? If so, please list their names, position titles, and any details on their ties to the company.
7. Were there other donors to your campaign with connections to Oklo? If so, who?

I appreciate your prompt attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator