

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Wright:

On Wednesday, Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought announced via social media that the Trump administration was going to cancel nearly \$8 billion in grants from the Department of Energy (DOE), including for projects in Massachusetts. The DOE released a list yesterday of the purported grant cancellations demanded by Vought, but it has yet to convey any information to grantees or to members of Congress as to what these cancellations mean for projects with ongoing work, open reimbursement requests, and other activities throughout the country. These terminations will hamstring American competitiveness, drive up energy costs, and hurt domestic manufacturing. And it will undermine investments in American innovation for years to come—ceding ground to China and other nations that understand the merit of technological development and investment.

The list of grants touted as cancelled by the Trump administration includes grants in many different stages. Some were awarded years ago, with a majority of the funding already spent in service of the project. Others were already cancelled by the Trump administration earlier this year or were withdrawn by the applicants as a result of this Administration's chaos. And as a sign of the haphazard way in which this Administration operates, some of these grant cancellations are mistakenly assigned to Massachusetts but are actually based in Pennsylvania and other states.

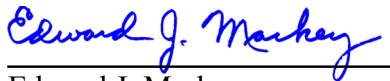
Even in the case of Massachusetts grantees, the impact of any attempt to cancel these grants will not be restricted to the Commonwealth—it will affect subgrantees and company partners in North Carolina, Ohio, Georgia, and Texas, among other states. It also will sabotage the United States' ability to compete on next generation hydrogen and conductive material technologies, which China and other nations continue to lead on. And this is yet another action that the Trump administration is taking that will push electricity bills even higher. Electricity prices have increased 10 percent and are rising twice as fast as the overall rate of inflation since Trump has taken office, and the DOE and Vought's attack on energy technology funding is going to ensure that trend continues to escalate.¹

To better understand this decision to sabotage American industry, hamstring innovation, kill manufacturing jobs, and raise household energy costs, we ask that you respond to these questions by October 10, 2025:

1. Please provide all documentation between the DOE and the Office of Management and Budget that directs the cancellation of awards.
2. Please provide a detailed explanation of the appeals process available to awardees, as referenced in your press release.
3. Has the DOE analyzed the negative impact that these cancellations will have on domestic manufacturing, energy prices, and market confidence? If yes, please provide that analysis. If not, why not?
4. Russell Vought said that DOE was cancelling grants “in the following states: CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, MD, MA, MN, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT, WA.”¹ However, the list of cancelled projects distributed by DOE also included grants in Iowa, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, North Dakota, and Tennessee, and the grants in Vought’s named states will also affect manufacturing, research, and jobs in states across the country. If the political affiliation or perceived political affiliation of the states affected by these terminations was a factor in the decision to attempt to kill these investments, please provide any legal analysis upon which this decision relied.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

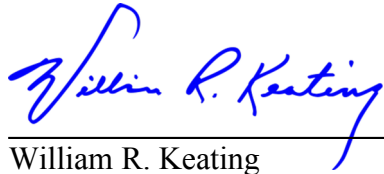
¹ Russell Vought (@russovought), X (Oct, 1 2025, 2:09PM), <https://x.com/russovought/status/1973450301236715838>.



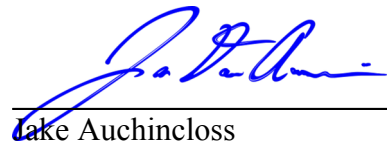
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress