

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to denounce the Department of Energy (DOE)'s unacceptable and unlawful termination of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen (PNWH2) Hub. The PNWH2 Hub was one of the largest of 223 projects across primarily blue states that DOE announced would lose funding. With this political ploy, you create severe economic losses for our region, risking thousands of good-paying jobs, billions of dollars in investment, and the setback of the United States' position on energy independence.

The Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs) program is a unique opportunity to leverage public and private financing to propel the United States forward in global energy innovation. Supported on a bipartisan basis¹, the PNWH2 Hub is a leading part of that effort. By utilizing our region's abundant clean energy mix, including hydropower, the PNWH2 Hub would jumpstart the region's hydrogen industry, revitalizing domestic manufacturing and attracting foreign and private investment.

After years of applications, interviews, and negotiations, DOE selected the PNWH2 Hub proposal to be one of just seven hubs out of 77 proposals submitted due to its high expected return on investment. Located throughout Washington, Oregon, and Montana, the hub is expected to create more than 10,000 high-quality jobs, attract approximately \$5 billion in private investment, and contribute over \$4 million in training programs to catalyze a skilled workforce. Planned projects span across a wide range of the agricultural, transportation, and energy sectors. PNWH2 and project partners have spent millions of dollars and countless hours implementing the first phase, and was the first hub in the program to request to move on to the next phase of funding in March of this year.

Last week's termination jeopardizes American manufacturing jobs and an influx of private and foreign investment. Despite DOE's claim that the cancellations are a safeguard for taxpayer dollars, tens of millions of dollars spent on permitting, analysis, stakeholder engagement, and other project work are now wasted. In addition, the United States faces fierce competition in global energy markets. Cancelling projects like the PNWH2 Hub is a step backward that rewards

¹ Rep. Schrier, K., & Sen. Cantwell, M. (2023, March 24). RE: Regional Hydrogen Hubs, FOA Number: DE-FOA-0002779. Retrieved from https://schrier.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/schrier.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/energy-letter-l9768-pacnw-delegation-doe-h2hubs-letter-of-support-version-1-03-31-2023-01-34-pm_2.pdf.

our competitors and pushes investment dollars abroad. The last thing we need now is to widen that gap by compromising investor faith and abandoning our role as a technological leader.

The termination of these energy investments is antithetical to the very priorities of lowering costs that this Administration purports to have. Average household prices have spiked 25 percent in Montana, 14 percent in Washington, and 8 percent in Oregon since your Administration took office², and reckless decisions like this will continue to harm our constituents. It is absolutely disgraceful that this Administration has chosen to cancel this project and instead play political games, gambling away economic opportunity for our constituents and businesses.

With these stakes, it is in the best interests of the region's grid reliability, economy, and families for DOE to reverse this illegal decision to terminate the PNWH2 Hub. We demand that you take corrective action to lower rising energy costs, strengthen U.S. energy independence and restore these domestic manufacturing jobs while adhering to the rule of law.

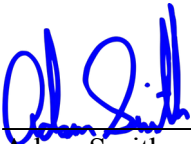
Sincerely,



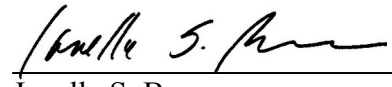
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

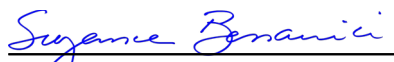
² U.S. Energy Information Administration. (2025). U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - independent statistics and analysis. Electricity Data Browser. <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/topic/7?agg=1,0&geo=g000000000043&endsec=8&linechart=ELEC.PRICE.US-RES.M&columnchart=ELEC.PRICE.US-RES.M&map=ELEC.PRICE.US-RES.M&freq=M&start=202501&end=202507&ctype=linechart<ype=pin&rtype=s&pin=&rse=0&maptype=0>



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



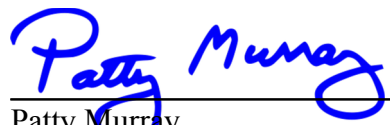
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



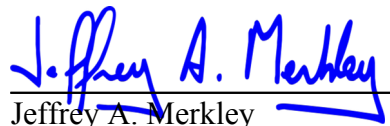
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Russell T. Vought, Director

Office of Management and Budget

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