

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
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REPUBLICAN LEADER,
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 16, 2021

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The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

Congratulations on your confirmation as the 16th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. While we may have differences in opinion along the way, I look forward to working together on policies that advance American energy security, innovation, and global leadership.

From hydropower to nuclear energy, Washington State is leading the technology and market-driven energy transition that will take us into the future. During our virtual meeting in February, we discussed Washington State's clean, reliable, and affordable hydropower. One of my priorities as Republican Leader of the House Energy and Commerce Committee is to build our hydropower capacity where possible. The Department of Energy's Hydropower Vision Report from 2018 indicated U.S. hydropower could grow from 101 gigawatts of capacity to nearly 150 gigawatts by 2050. Reaching that capacity will require investments in existing infrastructure, as well as a focus on strengthening and building upon our current hydropower workforce. I remain committed to working with you to ensure hydropower remains a strong component of the American energy mix.

Additionally, two of the five advanced nuclear reactor concepts the Department of Energy chose as part of the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program risk reduction pathway in December 2020 are siting their projects in Washington State. TerraPower and X-energy will continue our state's long legacy of leading on energy and climate solutions, and I am hopeful these projects will result in commercialization of advanced nuclear reactors in the coming years.

In February, we also spoke about the Department of Energy's environmental management at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in southeastern Washington. More than 2,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel and millions of gallons of high-level waste await disposal at the Hanford site. My colleagues in Washington State and I look forward to working with you to keep the Department's work at Hanford on track.

It would be an honor to host you in Washington State to show you firsthand the exciting developments taking place in hydropower and nuclear energy and to hear from the team at the Hanford site on their progress. I look forward to working with you and your team to determine a time when you may be able to visit "my Washington."

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
House Energy and Commerce Committee

1035 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2006
FAX: (202) 225-3392

10 NORTH POST STREET, SUITE 625
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 353-2374

555 SOUTH MAIN
COLVILLE, WA 99114
(509) 684-3481

26 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 2
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362
(509) 529-9358

www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov

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