

April 14, 2025

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

**Re: Preserving the DOE Loan Programs Office as a Pillar of American Energy Dominance**

Dear Secretary Wright:

As leaders in American industry, finance, and public policy, we write to express our strong support for the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office (LPO) and to underscore its importance to the administration's economic and energy priorities.

For nearly two decades, LPO has served as a vital source of patient, long-term capital for domestic energy projects that advance U.S. strategic and economic interests. Today, LPO continues to play a critical role in financing infrastructure that enables new nuclear power development, revitalizes domestic mineral production, and modernizes both grid and gas systems—all central to the administration's goals of lowering energy costs, reshoring manufacturing, and achieving energy dominance.

As budget and staffing decisions are weighed across the Department, we encourage the administration to ensure LPO remains fully equipped to carry out its mission. The office's ability to underwrite and monitor large-scale energy projects depends on specialized technical staff and institutional capacity. Without them, the federal government risks slowing or stalling the diverse mix of energy projects that serve national priorities, such as new nuclear energy development for powering AI data centers—undermining investment certainty and weakening American competitiveness.

LPO-financed projects are not speculative—they are commercial-scale infrastructure efforts that reduce electricity costs, bolster domestic production, and rebuild American industry. Recent examples include:

- A long-standing loan for **Plant Vogtle's AP1000 reactors**—the only new nuclear construction in the country—supported under the first Trump Administration.
- A **\$2.26 billion loan to Lithium Americas** for the Thacker Pass project in Nevada—set to become one of the world's largest lithium mines, helping secure U.S. supply chains and reduce dependence on China.

- A **\$1.56 billion loan guarantee to Holtec** to restart the Palisades Nuclear Plant in Michigan—the first nuclear restart in U.S. history, returning 800 MW of reliable baseload to the grid.
- A **\$1.81 billion commitment to Arizona Public Service** for transmission upgrades, solar deployment, and battery storage—strengthening the grid and reducing peak electricity prices.
- A **\$1.64 billion commitment to DTE Gas** in Michigan for distribution system upgrades that enhance reliability and support low-cost natural gas service to households and industry.
- An up to **\$4.9 billion conditional commitment** to the Grain Belt Express project, which will build a new 2500 MW transmission line connecting three regional grids. The project will enhance grid capacity to meet rapidly growing electricity demand from data centers and manufacturing.
- A **\$1.44 billion loan guarantee** to Montana Renewables, LLC for expanding synthetic aviation fuel (SAF) production—positioning it to become one of the world's largest SAF producers with capacity of 300 million gallons annually, strengthening America's leadership in SAF and supporting regional agricultural development.

These are precisely the kinds of projects the administration has championed: American-made, job-creating, pro-growth, and foundational to national strength and security.

We respectfully urge you to preserve LPO's robust financing capabilities. As your administration advances its energy and industrial agenda, maintaining the Loan Programs Office will be critical to delivering results.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to American energy excellence.

Sincerely,

**Oklo Inc.**

**Data Center Coalition**

**Nuclear Energy Institute**

**New American Industrial  
Alliance**

**Invenergy**

**Clean Energy Buyers  
Association**

Chris Barnard  
*President*  
**American Conservation  
Coalition**

Thomas Hochman  
*Director of Infrastructure Policy*  
**Foundation for American  
Innovation**

Abigail Ball  
*Executive Director*  
**American Compass**

**Direct Air Capture  
Coalition**

**International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers (IBEW)**

**Energy Northwest**

**Solugen Inc.**

**World Energy**

**Velocys Inc.**

Charles Oppenheimer  
*Executive Director*  
**Oppenheimer Project**

Arnab Datta  
*Managing Director of Policy  
Implementation*  
**Employ America**

Paris Ortiz-Wines  
*Director*  
**Stand Up for Nuclear**

**Nuclear Innovation  
Alliance**

**Zanskar Geothermal and  
Minerals**

**Institute for Progress**

**Heirloom Carbon**

**Exodys Energy**

**Zero6 Energy Inc.**

**Arcadia eFuels**

**Center for Climate and  
Energy Solutions**

**Twelve**

**Breakthrough Institute**

**Generation Atomic**

**Colorado Nuclear Alliance**

**Nuclear New York**

**Third Way**

**Native Nuclear**

**Mothers for Nuclear**