

**Alaska Wilderness League \* Center for Biological Diversity \* Clean Water Action  
Climate Hawks Vote \* Climate Law & Policy Project \* Defend Our Future \* Earthjustice  
Environment America \* Environmental Defense Fund \* League of Conservation Voters  
MIT Alumni for Climate Action \* Natural Resources Defense Council \* Oceana  
Sierra Club \* U.S. PIRG \* Union of Concerned Scientists**

**The Alaska Center \* CT League of Conservation Voters \* Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Environmental League of MA \* Florida Conservation Voters \* Georgia Conservation Voters  
Maine Conservation Voters \* Nevada Conservation League  
Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund \* Virginia League of Conservation Voters  
Washington Conservation Voters \* Wisconsin Conservation Voters**

February 2, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Manchin, and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of our collective millions of members and supporters, we write in full support of the nomination of the Honorable Jennifer Granholm to be the next Secretary of Energy. As a two-term governor who directed economic recovery and rebuilding efforts during the last recession, Governor Granholm has the experience needed to ensure the Department of Energy (DOE) plays a critical role in delivering this administration's promise to rebuild the economy to be fairer, more inclusive, and cleaner.

This administration has put forward laudable and needed goals to address the interconnected crises gripping the country. To meet them, DOE will need strong leadership to reorient toward combating the climate crisis, advancing racial, environmental, and energy justice and building a thriving clean economy. As the nation's largest funder of clean energy research, development, and demonstration, DOE will be an essential player in this comprehensive federal effort.

As her testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee demonstrated, Governor Granholm is enthusiastically committed to meeting the goals of creating new family-sustaining jobs, developing and manufacturing clean energy solutions in the U.S., decarbonizing existing fossil energy sources and creating place based solutions for communities that have been left behind and ones facing transition. Additionally, it is clear she is committed to enhancing the Department's commitment to scientific integrity and to handling the nation's nuclear waste through a scientifically defensible, consent based process.

As governor of Michigan, Gov. Granholm oversaw a bold strategy to diversify the state's economy following the recession of 2008. She oversaw large investments in clean energy technologies in her state and gained a first-hand experience with what works, what doesn't work, and how it affected the everyday lives of working families. This intrepid strategy helped put thousands back to work in her state and was a critical part in making the U.S. competitive in the fierce global competition over this sector.

All told over 3 million Americans worked in the clean energy and transportation economy before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.<sup>i</sup> Current unemployment and financial challenges for these workers can be countered by a range of tools now available to Secretary-designate Granholm, from direct home weatherization assistance and energy efficiency standards to technology-boosting investments aimed at recharging a struggling workforce. And those workers need to be put back to work quickly so the U.S. can compete in a global market for carbon reduction products that is projected to be create \$23 trillion in investment by 2030 in emerging markets alone.<sup>ii</sup>

The climate crisis is upon us and it must be addressed in an urgent manner that unites all communities in the mission to safeguard our future. Gov. Granholm is poised to refocus the Department to tackling climate, ensuring all its clean energy RDD&D investments have positive, measurable, climate benefits. Her record of leadership on this issue, both in and out of public office, demonstrates that she has the vision and skill needed to meet this moment and to do so in a manner that will ensure all communities are part of the solution.

Gov. Granholm's approach will also be needed if we are to successfully move forward in addressing the nation's nuclear weapons and fuels legacy. Her commitment to return to the "consent based" path laid out by the bipartisan 2012 Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future is reassuring. And it is long past time for a significant course correction that will allow us to achieve that "consent" – specifically, placing nuclear waste under bedrock environmental laws. Compliance with environmental law will move us past the failed Yucca repository program and allow for clear cleanup standards at DOE's Cold War nuclear weapons sites, with results that are consent based, scientifically defensible, publicly accountable, and complete.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We again urge all senators to support Gov. Granholm's nomination to lead the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

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<sup>i</sup> [Clean Jobs America 2020](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [Climate Investment Opportunities Total \\$23 Trillion in Emerging Markets by 2030, Says Report](#)