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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115  
Majority (202) 225-3641  
Minority (202) 225-2927

April 3, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Granholm:

We write to request information concerning the Department of Energy's (DOE) engagement with the International Energy Agency (IEA). As you know, the DOE oversees governance of the IEA and participates in various committees that guide the IEA's policy and programs. A representative from the DOE serves as vice chair of the IEA's Governing Board, which is responsible for overall management of the IEA through its budget and work plan. Furthermore, a significant share of the IEA's overall budget is funded by U.S. taxpayers.

The IEA was established in 1974 to ensure the security of oil supplies following the disruptions created by the Arab oil embargo. Congress has authorized U.S. federal agencies to participate in the IEA to provide authoritative data and impartial analysis of world energy markets, to help coordinate responses to energy supply disruptions, and to strengthen the energy security of the U.S. and its allies. We are concerned that the IEA has lost focus of its energy security mission and has instead shifted attention and resources to climate policy advocacy—to the detriment of its core mission.

In recent years, the IEA ceased publishing baseline oil and natural gas demand forecasts that accurately project market conditions and account for current laws and regulations. Such business-as-usual, or reference, forecasts are essential for objective analysis. They provide a vital tool for policy makers to assess current energy security needs and the costs and benefits of new policies. Instead, the IEA discarded these objective forecasts and began modeling only to the aspirational goals of climate policies that limit the use of fossil fuels. As a result, the IEA's projections show fossil energy demand will soon peak, in keeping with those climate policy scenarios.

The urgency of maintaining focus on energy security cannot be understated. The energy crisis following the COVID pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022

exposed Europe's dangerous dependence on Russian natural gas and the world's reliance on Chinese supply chains for so-called "clean" energy technologies, including wind, solar, and batteries. Fuel shortages and high energy prices destabilized economies around the globe. European countries, whose gas supply remains dependent on Russian pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports, are being forced to ration supplies and curtail manufacturing.

The IEA's new climate agenda and flawed projections may have contributed to the ongoing energy crisis by failing to provide participating governments with accurate and impartial data to make decisions. Government decision makers and energy sector users of the IEA's reports have been unable to weigh the cost and benefits of policy and investment decisions when IEA's fictional scenarios skew demand forecasts.

The IEA's questionable projections of "peak" demand of oil and natural gas already threaten to undermine the energy security of the United States and its allies. For example, the DOE recently testified that the IEA scenario showing global demand for natural gas will peak this decade influenced the Biden administration's decision to halt consideration of new U.S. LNG export permits.<sup>1</sup>

Restrictions on U.S. LNG exports will have a significant impact on America's economy, domestic fuel prices, energy security, and global emissions. Notably, U.S. LNG exports have spurred European countries to construct LNG import facilities in order to further wean themselves off of Russian natural gas. Regrettably, Europe imported a record amount of LNG from Russia last year, despite these efforts. Europe is importing 40 percent more LNG from Russia today than it was before the invasion of Ukraine. Now is not the time to turn away from America's tremendous energy potential.

The IEA's newfound climate policy advocacy raises serious questions about its current performance and DOE's role in assuring IEA performs its energy security mission. To assist the Committee in its review of DOE's engagements with the IEA, we ask that you respond to the following requests for information and questions no later than April 17, 2024.

1. List all funding, personnel, technical assistance, and other resources provided by the DOE to the IEA since January 20, 2021.
2. Describe the IEA budget and the scope of its work, including what share of the IEA's overall budget is funded by U.S. taxpayers.
3. The *World Energy Outlook* has been published by the IEA since 1998, with the intent of providing objective data and analysis to global energy supply and demand.
  - a. Describe the DOE's engagement with the IEA in the development of this report since 2020.

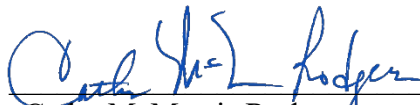
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<sup>1</sup> Testimony of David Turk, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy, before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, February 8, 2024. Available here: <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/12C4B00D-BFF3-4D11-9CD7-E462B156BF61>

- b. Explain why the IEA dropped its reference scenarios from its forecasting.
  - c. What did DOE advise IEA when decisions to drop such reference scenarios were made?
  - d. Who made the decision to shift the focus of the report from impartial data to climate advocacy?
  - e. Explain what role DOE has in developing the various demand scenarios and “pathways” for the energy mix?
  - f. Does the DOE’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) agree with the IEA on their prediction of “peak” oil and natural gas demand?
4. Provide all records, including communications, relating to the IEA’s decisions and actions to eliminate reference scenarios from its oil and gas demand forecasts.
  5. How is the IEA’s scope of work determined and what involvement does the DOE have in setting IEA policy?
  6. Did the DOE consult with the IEA prior to the Biden administration’s recent announcement to impose a ban on approvals of new U.S. LNG export permits?
    - a. Why did the DOE cite IEA’s demand projections for natural gas when announcing the decision to halt consideration of U.S. LNG export applications, instead of utilizing the EIA’s projections?

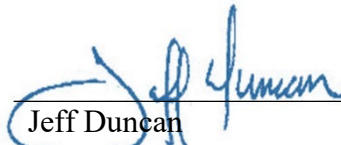
If you have any questions about these requests or need additional information, please contact Committee Majority staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



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Jeff Duncan  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and  
Grid Security