

Written Testimony of Secretary Christopher Wright
U.S. Department of Energy
Before the
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
April 21, 2026

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you and this Committee today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget request for the Department of Energy.

I want to commend this Committee for its longstanding commitment to tackling the challenges of energy policy and enabling the Department of Energy to carry out the truly transformative work we do on a daily basis. Thank you.

When I sat before you last year, for the first time, I laid out my priorities for the Department. Today we are delivering on those promises to unleash a golden era of American energy dominance, strengthen our national security, and lead the world in innovation. A reliable and abundant energy supply is the foundation of a strong and prosperous nation-- it drives our economy, safeguards our freedoms and fuels breakthroughs that improve our lives.

The Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2027 discretionary Budget Request provides \$53.91 billion in budget authority, delivering results for the American people in a fiscally responsible way.

UNLEASHING THE GOLDEN ERA OF AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

DOE remains committed to common sense energy policies that unleash America's energy dominance, in alignment with the President's agenda. The Department continues to be focused on turning our Nation's abundance of resources into affordable, reliable, and secure energy for all Americans.

The backbone of a strong energy economy is a secure, modernized, robust grid that reliably delivers an abundance of affordable energy. The Budget provides \$3.5 billion to support activities that will rapidly generate and transmit additional baseload power. This new initiative will support upgrades for coal, natural gas plants, and nuclear equipment. The initiative also supports reconductoring of existing transmission lines, uprating hydropower projects, and creating new geothermal capacity. The FY 2027 Budget also provides \$203 million for the Office

of Electricity, and \$200 million of credit subsidy within the Office of Energy Dominance Financing that can support the financing of eligible baseload power projects.

DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) plays a critical role in strengthening the security and resilience of the U.S. energy grid and securing U.S. energy infrastructure from cyber threats. A DOE Report on Evaluating U.S. Grid Reliability and Security released in July 2025 showed the U.S. energy grid is experiencing increased strain due to planned retirements of existing generation, coupled with increases in electricity demand driven by data centers and advanced manufacturing. The Budget provides \$160 million for CESER to enhance the security of energy infrastructure and its supply chain, while deploying experts to respond to energy crises.

The FY 2027 Budget invests \$1.12 billion for the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI), which includes the majority of the \$394 million in targeted spending for critical minerals production and processing pilot scale demonstrations that, when commercialized, would work to secure supply chains that are vulnerable to coercion by foreign adversaries and \$676 million for the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO). CMEI's mission secures critical mineral supply chains, ensures secure and reliable energy innovation and technology systems, and manages programs that enhance energy affordability and consumer choice. HGEO will leverage America's hydrocarbon resources to enhance reliable baseload power and improve long-term energy security. The Budget requests \$312 million for the Office of Petroleum Reserves, further protecting the U.S. economy from disruptions in critical petroleum supplies and revitalizing this national asset. Finally, to support the key role that nuclear energy plays in meeting the President's energy agenda, the FY 2027 Budget includes \$1.53 billion for the Office of Nuclear Energy to support the safe expansion of nuclear energy programs. This includes \$226 million for the Advanced Reactors Demonstration Program to expedite the development, demonstration, and deployment of commercial nuclear reactor technologies.

ACCELERATING SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES

To secure America's long-term economic strength, technological leadership, and national security, America must lead in AI. With \$1.2 billion to support multiple AI supercomputers at Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories, the DOE's Genesis Mission will integrate the full power of our 17 National Laboratories, scientific user facilities, industrial innovators, and the academic communities to strengthen America's technological leadership and global competitiveness. FY 2027 investments in scientific discovery will continue to build on the Administration's priority to improve our Nation's economy, national security, energy solutions, and overall quality of life. The Budget funds the Office of Science (SC) at \$7.14 billion to support cutting-edge basic research in the physical sciences. These investments emphasize

advancements in AI, quantum information science, fusion energy, high performance computing, and critical minerals and materials, in alignment with Executive Orders and the President's agenda. The Department further requests \$10 million for the Office of Fusion to coordinate activities advancing fusion.

PROTECTING THE NATION

National security and supporting the President's Peace Through Strength Agenda remains a top priority of the FY 2027 Budget. The Budget supports a safe, secure, and effective nuclear stockpile and makes necessary investments to reduce global nuclear threats, provide safe and effective integrated nuclear propulsion systems for the U.S. Navy, and modernize the Nuclear Security Enterprise. The Budget provides a historic investment of \$32.80 billion for NNSA to modernize the Nation's nuclear deterrent and protect the American people. This includes \$27.44 billion for maintaining the nuclear stockpile, modernizing warheads and production facilities, improving scientific tools, and renewing essential infrastructure to sustain deterrence. The Budget Request also provides funding to address nuclear threats by preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons or weapons-usable materials, countering efforts to acquire such weapons or materials, and responding to nuclear or radiological incidents. The Budget allocates \$2.39 billion to DOE's Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program to design and build safe reactors for submarines and aircraft carriers, modernize infrastructure, conduct research, and maintain technological superiority.

The Administration maintains a strong commitment to clean up and protect communities that won us World War II and kept Americans safe in subsequent years. The FY 2027 Budget includes \$8.18 billion for the Environmental Management (EM) program, including \$2.95 billion to continue cleanup progress at the Hanford site. EM activities include treating radioactive tank waste, dismantling contaminated sites, disposing of legacy waste, and cleaning soil and groundwater across DOE's nuclear sites. As the largest environmental cleanup program in the world, EM plays a key role in sustaining national security priorities through investments in new cleanup and remediation technologies, while supporting the communities where it operates.

The Budget also includes \$200 million for the Office of Legacy Management to provide long-term management solutions at over 100 World War II and Cold War era sites in communities across the Nation where the federal government operated, researched, produced, and tested nuclear weapons and/or conducted scientific and engineering research.

DOE's FY 2027 Budget demonstrates fiscal discipline and a commitment to an efficient and effective Federal government while advancing Presidential priorities which will provide for America's future. The Budget will allow the Department to continue delivering on promises to unleash a golden era of American energy dominance, focus on scientific advancements that

benefit the country, and protect the Nation. This budget is about unleashing American energy dominance. It's about powering our homes, our businesses, and our future with reliable sources that provide more energy, not less. It's about the steadfast reliability of nuclear, the abundant potential of hydrocarbons, and the untapped power of geothermal. It's about a golden age of scientific discovery through investments in the new Genesis Mission and fusion, and the Budget delivers on the President's call for Peace Through Strength by making historic investments in the Nation's nuclear security programs and investing in cybersecurity. DOE is uniquely prepared to continue and expand on this urgent work.

As Secretary of Energy, I am honored by the responsibility to help meet the American people's growing energy needs and lead the world in energy development. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this subcommittee.