



---

**Committee:** House Committee on Science, Space & Technology  
**Event:** [An Overview of the Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request](#)  
**Date:** June 10, 2026

---

### ***Executive Summary:***

On Wednesday, June 10, the House Science, Space & Technology Committee held a hearing with Energy Sec. **Chris Wright** to review the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget request and priorities. There was bipartisan agreement on the importance of critical minerals, energy diversification, and strengthening U.S. competitiveness, while Members diverged sharply on clean energy funding, DOE grant programs, and the federal government's role in driving energy investment.

### ***Member Toplines:***

[Chairman Brian Babin \(R-TX-36\)](#): Babin commended DOE's work this past year. He praised the agency's reorganization and focus on producing more domestic energy. Babin emphasized energy production's role in driving economic growth, supporting affordability, and strengthening national security. He expressed his support for an expansion of baseload power generation, allowing for U.S. domination in emerging technologies.

[Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren \(D-CA-18\)](#): Lofgren expressed her dissatisfaction with Wright's leadership, referencing his "inaccurate" statements regarding renewable energy, mass employee terminations, and drastic DOE funding cuts. She called for the DOE to take accountability for arbitrarily qualified employees. She also expressed her support for the development of nuclear fusion.

### ***Witness Toplines:***

[Chris Wright, U.S. Energy Secretary](#): Wright highlighted the DOE's goals of American energy dominance and leadership in quantum energy. He argued that the FY27 budget request would support reliable baseload power projects, more secure grids, and energy innovation. Wright also emphasized the importance of developing new technologies, like AI and nuclear fusion, and driving the commercialization of those technologies. He praised the FY27 budget's new investments in cybersecurity and national nuclear security programs.

### ***Major Takeaways:***

#### Clean Energy / Natural Gas

- Rep. **Deborah Ross** (D-NC-2) accused the DOE of prioritizing political appointees over merit-based review when canceling clean energy grants in blue states. She also highlighted the importance of clean energy to economic growth. Rep. **Gabe Amo** (D-RI-01) echoed her criticism of DOE's grant cuts.

- Rep. **Sarah McBride** (D-DE-AL) disapproved of the budget's increased funding incentives for fossil fuels.
- Rep. **Laura Gillen** (D-NY-04) called for an all-of-the-above energy approach to reduce prices, supporting both the NESE pipeline and clean energy rebates.
- Rep. **Randy Weber** (R-TX-14) emphasized his support of the *Jones Act* to expand natural gas transportation.

#### AI-Driven Energy Demand

- Rep. **Jay Obernolte** (R-CA-23) expressed his support for public-private partnerships on AI energy infrastructure and innovation. He further pushed for those partnerships to result in commercializations and endorsed the Genesis mission and fusion program.
- Rep. **Sheri Biggs** (R-SC-03) also spoke in support of the Genesis mission.
- Reps. **Valerie Foushee** (D-NC-04) and **Suhas Subramanyam** (D-VA-10) both raised concerns over the impact of data centers on electricity prices. In response, Wright highlighted the administration's "Ratepayer Protection Pledge."

#### Nuclear Energy

- Reps. Biggs, **Pat Harrigan** (R-NC-10), **Claudia Tenney** (R-NY-24), and **Lisa McClain** (R-MI-09) all expressed support for nuclear energy, including for fusion. Sec. Wright highlighted the budget's increased investments in nuclear energy, and the commitment of the DOE to harness that power and commercialize it.
- Rep. **April McClain Delaney** (D-MD-06) criticized the administration's delay in releasing appropriated energy funds, arguing that the federal government must be a reliable partner to the private sector. Delaney pressed Wright on the release of the \$3 billion appropriated for the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program. Wright said the money should be released soon and that he is passionate about the program.

#### Geothermal Energy

- Rep. **Jeff Hurd** (R-CO-3) asked about the largest constraints on expanding utility-scale geothermal energy; Wright pointed to permitting issues for developing on federal lands. Reps. Delaney, **George Whitesides** (D-CA-27), and **Darrell Issa** (R-CA-48) also expressed support for geothermal energy.

#### Critical Minerals

- Rep. **Matt Van Epps** (R-TN-7) emphasized the importance of building American critical mineral supply chains to reduce dependence on foreign countries. He highlighted roadblocks such as a lack of domestic mines, industry expertise, personnel, and equipment. Wright responded that the DOE is working to re-open American mines and expand domestic critical mineral processing abilities.
- Rep. **Mike Kennedy** (R-UT-3) raised concern over American dependence on China for rare earth elements, specifically those that are essential for electric vehicles, manufacturing, and defense technologies. He called for expanding domestic mining projects, and recovering critical minerals from existing mines and coal waste streams through new technologies. He additionally stated his support for DOE's new Critical Minerals & Energy Innovation Office. Sec. Wright agreed and stated that critical mineral and rare earth development was one of the DOE's largest commercial efforts.