EXHIBIT C

BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641
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October 26, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to follow up on our September 22, 2026, letter to you regarding false testimony and statements that you and other Department of Energy (DOE) officials provided to Congress regarding DOE's termination of hundreds of grants in October 2025. You have not responded to that letter despite an October 6, 2026, response deadline. It is deeply concerning that you refuse to explain your actions, and you do not appear to appreciate the seriousness of your and DOE's conflicting representations to us and in court filings.

On multiple occasions, you and other DOE officials lied to and misled the Committee by categorically denying that politics played any role in DOE's October 2025 grant termination decisions.[1] This deception became clear from court filings where DOE has admitted that the October 2025 grant termination decisions were "based solely" on partisan considerations.[2] Rather than explaining your actions and apparent lies, you have instead chosen to claim in court that DOE's termination of grants for partisan reasons was permissible, stating DOE had the authority to terminate grants to states that did not vote for Donald Trump and have only Democratic Senators "as leverage to end a government shutdown."[3]

We note that the judge overseeing that case has posed some critical questions in response to this argument, including, "What did Congress authorize DOE to consider in dispersing these

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[1] *See* Letter from Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rep. Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, to Chris Wright, Secretary, United States Department of Energy (Sept. 22, 2026).

[2] Parties' Stipulations and Agreement to Obviate Discover as to DOE and DOE's Stipulations of Fact and Agreement to Produce Grants Spreadsheet (July 15, 2026), *Thakur v. Trump*, N.D. Cal (No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL).

[3] Defendants' Cross Motion for Summary Judgment and Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment and for Class Certification; Memorandum of Points and Authorities (Aug. 21, 2026), *Thakur v. Trump*, N.D. Cal (No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL).

specific funds? How is political leveraging with the goal of ending a government shutdown within the scope of the statutory goals that Congress mandated for DOE?"[4]

While you missed the October 6 deadline to respond to our congressional inquiry, we assume that you will respect the court's October 27 deadline to answer this and other questions. We are curious to see how you will respond to the court because the honest and accurate statement would be that Congress in no way authorized DOE to terminate hundreds of grants "for political reasons."[5]

As Democratic leaders of the Committee with legislative and oversight jurisdiction over national energy policy and general management of DOE, we have not—and would not—authorize the Secretary of Energy or others at DOE to terminate properly awarded grants for partisan reasons, such as whether a state voted for a particular president or was represented by Senators of a certain party.[6] And the existence of a partial government shutdown did not somehow provide you with new powers to abuse the grantmaking process for partisan ends.

As our ongoing investigation of your actions should make clear, we will not tolerate your use of DOE grants as a vehicle to carry out President Trump's political vendettas, nor will we tolerate your choice to lie to us in an attempt to cover up your actions. We expect that you will provide responses to our September 22, 2026, letter promptly, and we will continue to closely monitor all statements that you and other DOE officials make publicly, in court, and to Congress for any other inconsistencies.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member

Kathy Castor
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy

Yvette D. Clarke
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

[4] Order Requesting Supplemental Briefing (Oct. 13, 2026), *Thakur v. Trump*, N.D. Cal (No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL).

[5] *See* note 3.

[6] House Rule X, clause 1(f).