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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH 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

Minority (202) 225-2927

April 24, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

We write to request more information on your recent travel to Puerto Rico, which includes four trips to the territory in five months.¹ The frequency and duration of these trips raise concerns regarding your attention to your other duties, particularly in light of climbing energy costs and intensifying threats to the United States' energy independence. We understand the importance of stabilizing and modernizing Puerto Rico's electric grid but question whether your frequent and extended presence is critical to these activities.

In addition to two trips to Puerto Rico in the fall of 2022, you recently made two week-long trips to Puerto Rico in February and March of this year.² In 2022, in addition to numerous domestic trips,³ you traveled to France, Australia, Mexico, and Singapore.⁴ Additionally, you seemingly prioritized visits to these international locations before finally visiting the Hanford

¹ Gabe Kaminsky, *Biden Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm Makes Fourth Trip to Puerto Rico in Five Months*, Washington Examiner (Mar. 29, 2023), <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/white-house/biden-energy-department-jennifer-granholm-puerto-rico>.

² Dep't of Energy, *Readout of Secretary Granholm's Third Visit to Puerto Rico*, Feb. 3, 2023, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/readout-secretary-granholms-third-visit-puerto-rico> (last visited Mar. 30, 2023); Alana Goodman, *Granholm Gone Wild? Energy Sec Takes Fourth Trip to Puerto Rico in Five Months*, Washington Free Beacon (Mar. 29, 2023), <https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/granholm-gone-wild-energy-sec-takes-fourth-trip-to-puerto-rico-in-five-months/>.

³ Tri-Cities Area J. of Business Staff, *Secretary Granholm: Please Visit Hanford*, Tri-Cities Area J. of Business (Jul. 2022), <https://www.tricitybusinessnews.com/2022/07/our-view-july22/>.

⁴ *Id.*; *Singapore-United States Join Ministerial Statement on Energy Cooperation*, Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (Jul. 15, 2022), <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2022/07/Singapore-United-States-Joint-Ministerial-Statement-on-Energy-Cooperation>.

site, one of the most costly and challenging cleanup sites in your agency's Office of Environmental Management complex.⁵

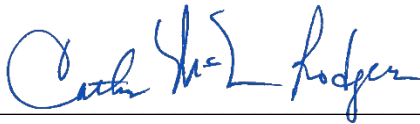
To assist the Committee's oversight of the Department's use of taxpayer funds and its understanding of the purposes of your travel, we request, pursuant to Rule X and Rule XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, that you provide the following for all domestic and international official travel trips from February 25, 2021, to the present:

- a. The names and job titles of all staff, including security, support staff, and advance teams, who accompanied you on each trip.
- b. Itineraries for yourself and all accompanying staff for each trip.
- c. An itemized list of expenses incurred during the duration of your travels for yourself and all accompanying staff, including transportation to and from your destination.
- d. A list of official activities and meetings undertaken during your travels and all accompanying meeting minutes.

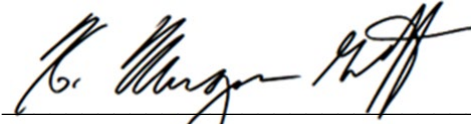
We request that you provide the above documents and information by May 8, 2023.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Morgan Griffith
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations

⁵ Tri-Cities Area J. of Business Staff, *supra* note 3.