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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 25, 2013

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The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The Committee on Natural Resources (“Committee”) has been conducting oversight and investigatory activities regarding your predecessor’s March 16, 2012 “Memorandum for the Federal Power Marketing Administrators.” For nearly a year, the Committee has repeatedly sought communications and documents from the Department in order to shed light on the decision-making process that resulted in that memorandum and the subsequent final recommendations. Those resulting final recommendations, released in January 2013, implement policies which steer the Power Marketing Administrations (“PMAs”) away from their statutorily defined purpose.

To date, the Committee’s requests remain almost wholly unfulfilled. It is essential that the Department respond to the Committee’s outstanding requests so the Committee can properly perform its oversight duties and provide the American people – particularly those who receive a portion of their power from the PMAs – with a better understanding of the intent and effects of Secretary Chu’s memorandum.

The two request letters on this matter, dated October 11, 2012 and February 28, 2013, contained twelve specific and limited questions for the Department to answer and sought related documents on those issues. The Department has yet to produce documents responsive to eight of the twelve questions (1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, and 12). Given the concise and targeted nature of the Committee’s previous requests, the Department’s unresponsiveness is disappointing and troubling.

In particular, it does not appear the Department has provided documents from the senior official who served as the architect of these new policies, Lauren Azar. This is especially troubling given that Ms. Azar is no longer with the Department. It is vital that the Department

take the steps necessary to protect Ms. Azar's documents from being destroyed and to ensure that they remain available in response to this nearly year-long document request.

Please describe what steps have been taken upon the departure of Ms. Azar to ensure that her records, emails, and computer hard-drives were properly preserved and whether any of Ms. Azar's documents that are responsive to the Committee's October 11, 2012 and February 8, 2013 document requests have been destroyed or lost. Please confirm that all of Ms. Azar's records responsive to this request have been collected and please describe Ms. Azar's role in collecting and reviewing those records.

A thorough response by the Department is necessary for the Committee to carry out its oversight responsibilities. Through this letter, the Committee draws your attention to this important matter and renews, yet again, the request for the documents and communications described in the October 2012 and February 2013 letters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings", is written over the typed name.

Doc Hastings,  
Chairman