One Year of Trump Administration and Congressional Attacks on Clean Energy Jobs and Innovation

BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE

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INTRODUCTION

The clean economy stands at a critical turning point. Global investments in next-generation technologies are surging, and the Biden administration put the United States in a position to lead.[1] Since 2021, Congress has enacted three landmark laws—the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS), and the Inflation Reduction Act—to strengthen U.S. manufacturing and invest in emerging sectors that create good-paying jobs. These measures contained flaws, including slow implementation and insufficient checks on anti-union activity by companies benefiting from public funds, but they were delivering results. Billions in federal funding sparked over a trillion dollars in private investment and generated hundreds of thousands of manufacturing and construction jobs.[2] But unfortunately, the Trump administration is now working aggressively to reverse this progress, threatening the United States' ability to compete in the global market.

In July, President Donald Trump signed the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," repealing nearly $550 billion in funding that would have supported clean energy investments.[3] In addition to that repealed funding, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) also canceled hundreds of contracted awards worth $11 billion for domestic manufacturing, innovation, and decarbonization projects.[4] DOE Secretary Chris Wright led the efforts to halt these clean energy and manufacturing projects. The problem isn't just the sheer amount of canceled federal funding—it's that these dollars were driving private investment into critical sectors and delivering benefits to communities nationwide.

Canceling projects will eliminate jobs in emerging sectors; prevent existing industries from adopting advanced technologies and preserving jobs; and squander the opportunity to build a next-generation industrial ecosystem in the United States. This story has played out before. Once a global leader in producing solar panels and semiconductors, the United States saw that capacity erode due to domestic policy choices and international developments.[5] Recent efforts to reshore these sectors underscore how challenging it is to rebuild industries once they've been lost. Even more troubling, these actions follow a clear pattern: the Trump administration repeatedly canceled legally obligated funding for projects finalized under the Biden administration, relying on flimsy or outright illegal rationales. Moreover, the administration has not disclosed the criteria it uses to review projects. Members of Congress have raised concerns that decisions to cancel projects were made entirely by a small group of political appointees, "based on nothing more than a one-page summary memo for each project, drafted by yet another political appointee."[6] These actions undermine faith in the public sector, inflict material harm on companies that held signed agreements, and diminish the public sector's ability to partner with strategic industries in the future.

TIMELINE OF DOE CANCELLATIONS

Upon taking office, the Trump administration quickly signaled its intent to derail progress made to reshore manufacturing.[7] In May, Secretary Wright launched a review of 179 Biden-era projects worth more than $15 billion. He claimed the review was necessary to "identify waste of taxpayer dollars, protect America's national security, and advance President Trump's commitment to unleash affordable, reliable, and secure energy for the American people," as well as to examine "the billions of dollars that were rushed out the door."[8] This rationale never held up. The claim that the Biden administration rushed funding ignores substantial evidence to the contrary. When DOE launched a new funding program, the process averaged six to eight months for award design, three to five months to develop the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), four to six months for applicants to submit proposals, five to seven months for review, and another eight to 12 months to finalize negotiations. In total, this timeline stretched 30–40 months. Former DOE officials from the Biden administration have consistently noted that the department adopted a slow, deliberate approach to distributing funds.[9] Contrary to Secretary Wright's statements, contracts awarded under the Biden administration—including those finalized in the final months of 2024—underwent a rigorous review process based on standardized, publicly accessible rubrics.

Just weeks into their so-called review, DOE—using "rushed funding" as a justification—canceled 24 projects, including 18 of them from the Industrial Demonstrations Program (IDP). The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions estimates that those cancellations will result in the loss of 25,000 jobs and $4.6 billion in economic output.[10] But that was just the beginning. The day after the 2025 government shutdown began, DOE announced it was canceling another $7.5 billion across 321 awards. The Trump administration publicly stated these were chosen because they were in states that did not support Trump in the 2024 election.[11] Soon after, more information leaked that revealed 303 additional projects—totaling more than $12 billion—were at risk of being axed in the weeks ahead. At the time of publication, these projects have yet to hear a decision on their final status.[12] All of these cancellations occurred without providing any publicly available rubric for how DOE officials should evaluate project viability.

HOW DOE BECAME A PILLAR OF U.S. ENERGY STRATEGY

The previous administration recognized the urgent need to strengthen U.S. capacity to move innovations from the lab to the marketplace. Disruptions from COVID-19 supply chain snarls and energy price spikes following Russia's invasion of Ukraine only underscored this challenge. To address these new challenges, the Biden administration turned to DOE and gave the agency a new scope of operations—growing its role beyond energy research and development (R&D) and nuclear defense to adopt an "industry-led, government-enabled" approach that expanded its focus to include large-scale demonstration and deployment of advanced energy technologies.[13] DOE's updated role is especially critical now, as demand for energy, particularly electricity, surges due to economy-wide electrification, advances in artificial intelligence, the growth of data centers, and new manufacturing industries.

Recent moves by the Trump administration threaten to dismantle the emerging U.S. innovation ecosystem DOE has cultivated and instead lock the nation into an economy dependent on costly fossil fuels and isolated from global markets. Historically, DOE has led the way in advancing research and innovation to combat climate change and strengthen U.S. energy sovereignty.[14] Under Secretary Wright, however, DOE is shifting course—abandoning the pursuit of a net-zero carbon future and channeling substantial resources toward mature fossil-based technologies that no longer require government support.[15] As a result of this shift in focus, many of the nation's top energy researchers are leaving the United States to continue their work abroad, while career staff at DOE are exiting public service in droves.[16]

DOE'S CLIMATE DENIAL

In 2025, DOE enlisted five researchers known for their controversial, dissenting views on climate science to draft a report intended to undermine the established scientific consensus on climate change. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) then cited this report to justify its opposition to regulating greenhouse gases.[17] In stark contrast, a new analysis from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine reaffirmed the EPA's 2009 "endangerment finding," which grants the agency the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, as accurate—having "stood the test of time" based on the latest evidence.[18] Any attempt by EPA to revoke this authority using flawed, poorly constructed research from DOE is not only out of step with prevailing scientific consensus but also threatens the United States' innovation ecosystem and economic stability.

For decades, the core weakness of U.S. energy policy hasn't been developing next-generation technologies—it's been failing to protect existing production and commercialize the innovations developed domestically. Taxpayers invested in clean energy research and breakthroughs, only to see them commercialized and manufactured elsewhere, including the projected $23 trillion global clean energy market that has shifted overseas.[19] Through BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act, Congress appropriated roughly $98 billion to DOE to launch 60 new programs, including 16 demonstration initiatives and 32 deployment programs, while expanding its research portfolio.[20] Congress also directed DOE to establish cross-office coordination for its manufacturing and industrial programs to maximize success. This push for stronger coordination, along with a focus on demonstration and deployment, aimed to match international peers that have modernized their energy strategies and sought to overcome the nontechnical barriers that often block adoption of new technologies.

For example, the U.S. industrial sector is a major emitter of greenhouse gases that is heavily reliant on outdated technologies and facilities.[21] Industrial incumbents often hesitate to invest in new solutions that will improve efficiencies and reduce emissions due to high costs.[22] When companies only focus on short-term headwinds, they trail their global competitors whose governments actively support innovation in their industrial sectors. A substantial reason the European Union (EU) is far ahead of the United States in deploying industrial decarbonization technologies is because of strong government support.[23] Therefore, Congress, through funding from BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act, directed DOE to launch the Industrial Demonstrations Program (IDP). The program aimed to help energy-intensive manufacturers deploy innovative technologies that reduce emissions and boost U.S. competitiveness. Private-sector interest for IDP far exceeded expectations—demand was ten times greater than available funding.[24] Yet DOE, under Secretary Wright, canceled most awards issued by the Biden administration, arguing the projects "failed to meet the energy needs of the American people, lacked economic viability, and would not deliver a positive return on taxpayer investment."[25]

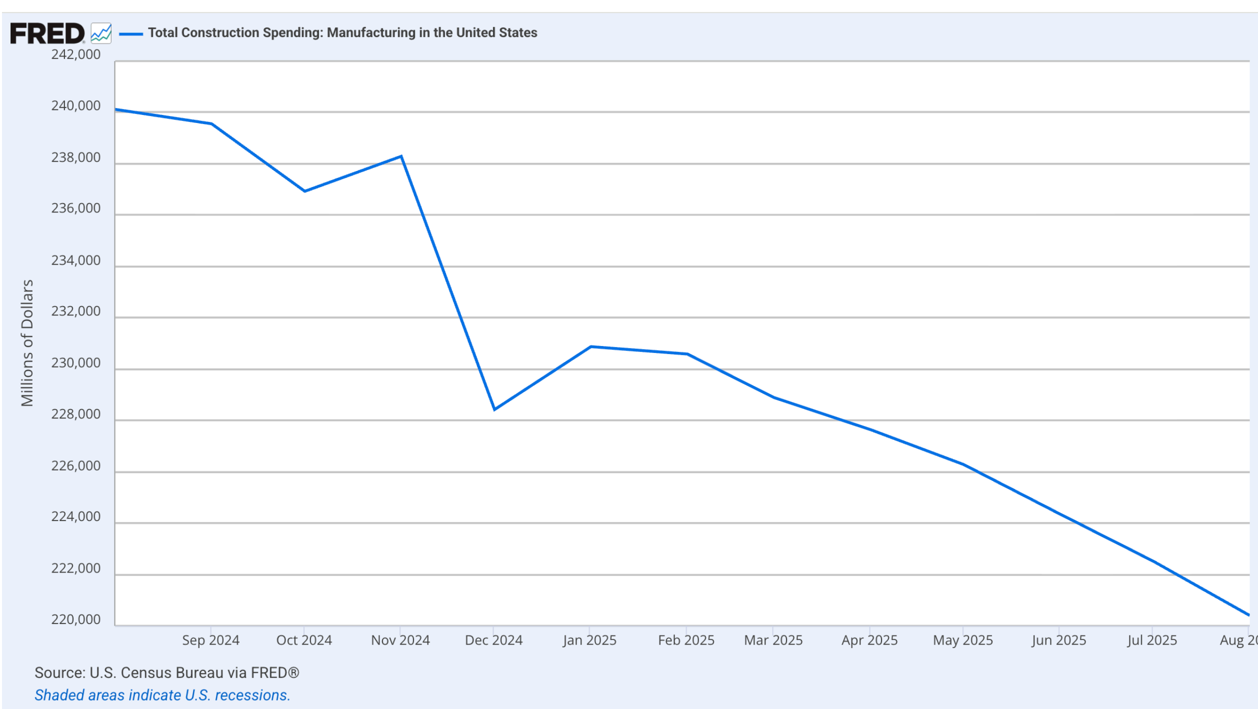
That reasoning misses the point. Energy Secretary Wright not only failed to explain why these projects did not meet the stated objectives—or even define what those objectives mean—but also overlooked the purpose of demonstration projects.

These projects are not intended to compete immediately with mature technologies; they exist to identify system-level challenges, uncover cost-reduction opportunities, and assess technology maturity.[26] And they are a common tool used by foreign governments. Without deployment of new technologies, production cannot improve and it is impossible to move down the technology cost curve. Public sector investments into early-stage deployments are critical to derisk technology for private finance. Once the "valley of death" has been crossed with the help of the public sector funding, private finance will crowd into the now-derisked technology and fund its path to economy-wide scalability.[27]

THE THREAT TO DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING

As previously noted, recent bipartisan laws sparked a historic manufacturing boom, but Trump-era policy reversals now threaten to erode that progress and weaken U.S. supply chain resilience. On April 2, President Trump signed an executive order raising tariffs on international goods and declaring domestic manufacturing critical to U.S. national security.[28] The move was intended to build on a growing bipartisan consensus and several Biden-era directives and legislation aimed at strengthening supply chain resilience and the U.S. manufacturing sector. During his Senate confirmation hearing, Secretary Wright emphasized the need to build things in the United States.[29] Over the past decade, both parties have agreed that the United States has offshored too much of its critical supply chains and that government action is essential to reverse course. In recent years, Congress deployed a range of tools to benefit our manufacturing sector, including tax credits, grants, loan guarantees, and federal procurement.

Those tools helped spark a wave of reinvestment in U.S. manufacturing. Between 2021 and 2025, companies announced nearly $400 billion in clean technology and semiconductor projects.[30] At its peak in summer 2024, manufacturing construction spending soared to $240 billion—up from $80 billion in August 2019.[31] That momentum has since slowed as policy shifts under the Trump administration take hold. Manufacturing construction spending has dropped 8% from its peak, and in 2025 to date, firms have canceled 42 clean manufacturing projects worth $24 billion.[32] Congress passed legislation to support manufacturing because it understood the United States cannot remain an economic superpower while outsourcing next-generation technologies—especially critical energy supply chains—to other countries. In its attempts to repeal key aspects of these laws through executive fiat, the Trump DOE risks eroding the domestic manufacturing base that members of both parties—and the administration itself—claim to want to revive.



As a result of these choices, the technologies hoped to be scaled domestically will scale abroad, and the United States will be left with a weaker domestic manufacturing ecosystem and rely on importing solutions it once had the chance to own.[33] Regardless of U.S. policy on emissions, the market for low-carbon manufactured goods is real and growing. Global markets for low-carbon construction materials are projected to grow 3% annually from 2025 to 2030.[34] Private companies continue to move towards decarbonized supply chains, and organizations, such as the First Movers Coalition, have emerged as first-of-its-kind efforts to leverage collective purchasing power and accelerate decarbonization in heavy-emitting sectors.[35] Other countries with high ambitions for emissions reductions are increasingly adopting measures to level the playing field for their own manufacturers.[36] For example, the EU introduced a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), meaning U.S. manufacturers selling into the EU must invest in emissions reductions or their European customers will look to other solutions.[37] Investments to decarbonize supply chains will still happen—but instead of creating jobs and community benefits in the United States, they will take root overseas.

GLOBAL COMPETITORS SURGE AS U.S. RETREATS FROM CLEAN TECH LEADERSHIP

Global investment in clean technology manufacturing is accelerating.[39] As the United States retreats from clean tech leadership, China and other global competitors are surging ahead—dominating markets, restricting critical exports, and investing heavily in next-generation technologies. China currently leads in critical sectors—such as batteries and solar—controlling more than 70% of the market and pouring billions into its supply chains.[40] It has rapidly scaled its electric vehicle (EV) industry, currently producing 70% of global EVs.[41] And it's willing to use policy to maintain that lead. For example, the Chinese government has now prohibited battery giant CATL from exporting the equipment to produce cathodes, an important component of battery production, to other countries.[42] These tactics and overall industry concentration has driven countries like South Korea to launch state-backed plans to expand their battery industries. The EU has invested billions in industrial modernization and introduced a Green Deal Industrial Plan.[43] In sharp contrast, DOE announced $700 million in cuts to projects supporting battery manufacturing.[44]

And while DOE was cutting funding for demonstration projects and gutting the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), China announced 101 new demonstrations spanning renewable energy, grid storage, industrial decarbonization, sustainable transportation, and synthetic fuels.[47] The United States isn't just losing ground in manufacturing. The United States led China in cutting-edge research for 60 of 64 next-generation technologies in 2007, but by 2023 that trend reversed and China now leads in 57 of those 64 key technologies, including photovoltaics, high-performance computing, and advanced robotics.[48] The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at DOE was particularly effective in helping seed hundreds of companies that are now contributing vital innovations to the energy economy.[49] Once the United States loses market share and the ability to research, manufacture, and deploy clean technologies, regaining that position will be extremely difficult. The United States's ability to partner with strategic industries is a vital tool for securing the industries of the future, but those public-private partnerships have been damaged by the actions of this administration.

HOW THE U.S. FELL BEHIND IN THE BATTERY SUPPLY CHAIN

China now dominates nearly every component of the battery supply chain, leveraging a range of industrial policy tools to achieve this position.[45] But it wasn't always that way. The United States invented the technologies that power today's industry and once had the opportunity to scale production domestically. Two main lithium-ion battery chemistries—Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) and Nickel Manganese Cobalt (NMC)—were developed in the 1990s at the University of Texas at Austin and Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, respectively.[46] Instead of commercializing these innovations, the U.S. allowed other countries to take the lead. As a result, the United States finds itself playing catchup to build out a supply chain for a technology with domestic roots.

DOE'S MISSTEPS THREATEN PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

DOE's abrupt cancellation of awarded projects undermines long-standing trust in federal contracts, jeopardizing private investment and weakening U.S. competitiveness. It's not unusual for federally funded projects to fail or return money to the awarding agency. Programs are designed with this expectation built into their contracts. For example, IDP grantees faced multiple "go" and "no-go" checkpoints throughout their project lifecycles.[50] Professional DOE career staff regularly assessed project progress, market conditions, and financial viability before releasing additional funds authorized under the contract. This approach protects taxpayer dollars by avoiding large upfront investments in complex, high-risk projects and instead allows DOE and other agencies to monitor performance and adjust funding as needed.

Canceling these awards in their entirety is not only a short-sighted sabotage of domestic manufacturing, but it will chill any ability for future federal programs to incentivize private sector investment. Contracts that are rescinded every time political winds shift are rendered useless. This practice will, at a minimum, decrease companies' interest in taking on the time and expense of applying to federal programs. More likely, it will also materially harm both the private sector and the public sector for years to come by eroding confidence in the U.S. government's ability to honor its contracts.[51]

Consistently enforced agreements have been a cornerstone of DOE's partnerships with private industry, and DOE has historically upheld these contracts—except in extraordinary circumstances—regardless of political shifts. That stability is now in jeopardy. If investors cannot trust government commitments, they will exclude federal contracts from their decision-making. This loss of trust undermines U.S. companies' ability to attract private investment and harms foreign-based companies' desire to invest in the United States.[52] It also weakens the government's ability to partner with the private sector to invest in strategic sectors, support vital domestic industries, and ensure next-generation technologies scale in the United States—ironically, goals the Trump administration has publicly endorsed.

PRIVATE FINANCING CHAOS AND THE LEGAL, FISCAL, AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES

Most of the now-terminated awards are structured so that DOE's investment is matched by the awardee. For example, the IDP alone leveraged over $14 billion of private investment.[53] Companies compete for cost-share agreements through rigorous, multi-stage processes, which is one aspect of why winning a federal award can act as a signal of financial credibility that in turn, can help unlock new, low-cost capital from outside investors.[54] For that financing model to be successful, it depends on the perception that DOE's commitment is durable, grants are awarded on merit, and the process is free of political bias.

The federal government's executive agencies are staffed with political appointees chosen by the president and with a much larger number of career staff who remain at the agency throughout election cycles and transitions. This ensures the operational capacity and institutional knowledge of the agency do not reset to zero every time a new president is elected. Historically, there was a firewall that allowed these apolitical career staffers to make award decisions in collaboration with political appointees.[55] Under the Trump DOE, however, every award decision is made by and through political appointees. The Trump administration's erratic terminations have obliterated the foundation of merit-based decision-making.

By making federal support contingent on political alignment, DOE has sent a clear message: a contract is only as good as the next election.

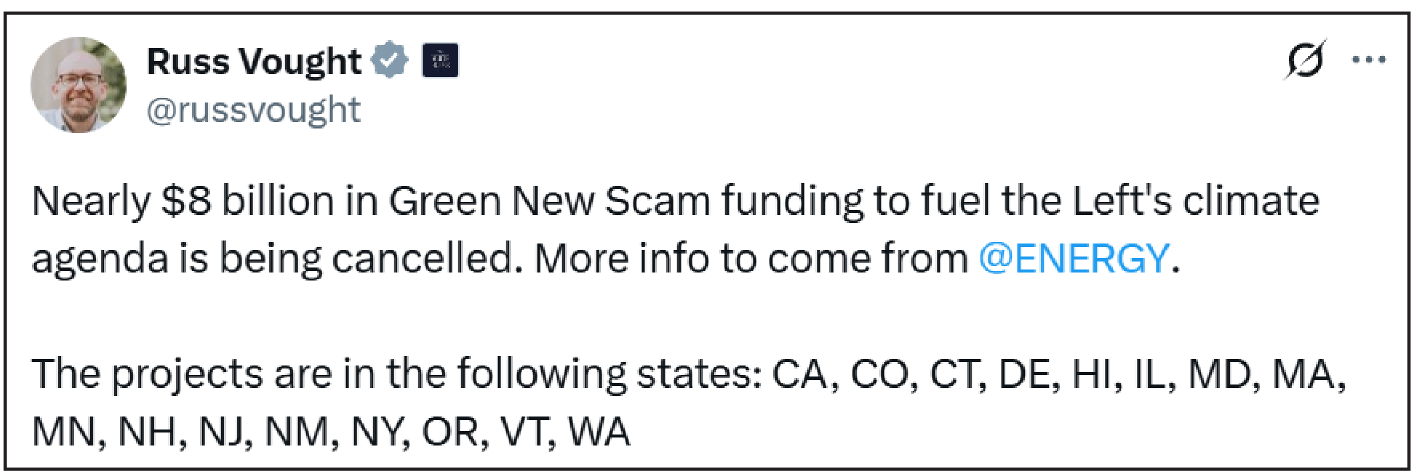
For investors, that renders government participation effectively worthless. Faced with that uncertainty, firms will look abroad to jurisdictions offering predictable policy environments and stable partnerships.[56] When they do, the jobs, supply chains, environmental benefits, and strategic advantages these projects promised will migrate with them.

DOE's terminations are also causing secondary harm to companies that entered into offtake contracts with awardees. After completing a rigorous application process and securing government grants, many firms approached investors with proposals that highlighted their federal support. They began locking in offtake agreements with customers made possible by those grants.[57] When DOE pulls the rug out, those commitments unravel.

On top of everything else, the government may end up spending more than it saves. When a grant forms part of a company's pitch to secure offtake contracts, its termination exposes the government to potential claims for financial damages from firms that lose business as a result.[58] Both parties, supplier and offtaker, entered contracts on the assumption that DOE's commitment was durable. Federal funds made those deals possible, shaping pricing, delivery schedules, and investment decisions. When those funds disappear, companies lose the ability to honor offtake agreements that were central to their commercial strategy. If firms incur losses because those contracts fall apart, they could seek legal action against the federal government for damages tied to the termination of its own commitments. Those lawsuits could force taxpayers to compensate companies for stranded investments and lost business—erasing any perceived cost savings from the cancellations and compounding the economic and strategic damage of driving clean innovation and deployment overseas.[59]

The arbitrary "review" process DOE underwent was also a clear façade to pursue their political goal of cancelling as many awards as possible, regardless of merit. This was laid bare when, in what appeared to be an attempt to strong-arm Democrats amid a government shutdown, the Trump administration terminated almost $8 billion of awards that were catalyzing private investment and jobs in states that did not support Trump in the 2024 election.[60] It's a poor way to govern and undermines the core principle that our government should not favor one type of speech over another. Not only are the contracts being discarded and the private entities who relied on them left holding the bag, but the administration is also usurping Congress's power to appropriate funds.

The administration's claim that these cancellations are about fiscal responsibility collapses under even minimal scrutiny. The pattern is unmistakable: projects were targeted because they advance priorities the administration opposes. That is not how government works. The president cannot issue an executive order to eliminate all climate-related funding and then direct DOE to terminate legally binding contracts. Congress appropriated these funds, and under the law, the executive branch must implement those directives—regardless of its policy preferences. Ignoring that obligation is a direct assault on Congress's constitutional power of the purse and puts us one step closer to making the president a monarch. If this precedent stands, any administration could nullify duly enacted programs for ideological reasons, further eroding the rule of law.


Russ Vought
@russvought

Nearly $8 billion in Green New Scam funding to fuel the Left's climate agenda is being cancelled. More info to come from @ENERGY.

The projects are in the following states: CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, MD, MA, MN, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT, WA

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THE FALLOUT FROM CANCELED PROJECTS

It's not only companies that received grants that will be impacted. Part of the awarded contracts included requirements to develop a community benefits plan (CBP)—designed to ensure government investments delivered tangible benefits to local populations.[62] These plans, which included features such as community engagement timelines, economic development funds, workforce training, and environmental remediation proposals, are valuable for derisking projects where issues like the availability of a skilled, local workforce and community buy-in are critical to the project's success. Workforce agreements are often key features of CBPs, and the Biden DOE factored a company's commitment to its workers into the merit-review process of CBPs and award decisions. Recent polling confirms that communities are more likely to support projects if a company has agreed to union neutrality.[63] Supporting workers and uplifting communities with strong CBPs is a win-win for developers and communities, and CBPs were already beginning to generate positive impacts.[64] The (now butchered) IDP required the submission of a CBP. It awarded 33 projects across 20 states, with 56% of the program's funding going to facilities that are union or committed to union neutrality, and nearly 80% of the awards going to disadvantaged communities.[65] Thanks to the Trump administration's actions, these communities will now lose the immediate benefits like cleaner air, new jobs, and a stronger tax base that the terminated projects were set to bring.

The Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant Program—a first of its kind initiative—aimed to fund recently closed or at-risk facilities to retool and convert production lines from internal combustion engine vehicles and parts to EV manufacturing. The program now faces one confirmed cancellation from DOE and eight additional projects threatened to be canceled. These nine projects span nine states, and many involve unionized workforces. As the industry accelerates toward EV production, these facilities and their workers now face an increasingly uncertain future.[66] Canceling awards forces companies to either abandon projects—absorbing major losses—or attempt to proceed without critical federal support and lose the incentive to continue implementing CBPs.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

MULTIDAY IRON AIR DEMONSTRATION
Becker, MN and Pueblo, CO

Xcel Energy secured a $70 million award from DOE through the Long-Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Demonstrations Program to deploy two 10 MW, 100-hour iron-air batteries at retiring coal plants in Becker, MN, and Pueblo, CO. The batteries, manufactured by Form Energy in West Virginia, represent a major step toward domestic production of advanced storage technologies. As part of the project, Xcel developed a CBP with local stakeholders, creating advisory bodies for both sites and offering training and workforce development opportunities for disadvantaged communities nearby.[67]

However, in October, DOE terminated this project along with 321 other awards. This decision comes at a critical time: the market for LDES is projected to grow rapidly over the next decade as wind and solar resources expand, driving the need for storage—especially long-duration solutions. Today, most new grid storage relies on lithium-ion technology, which typically lasts only 8–12 hours. Achieving storage durations beyond 24 hours will require government support to demonstrate and scale emerging technologies to commercial viability.[68] By ending this project, DOE makes it harder for the United States to advance energy storage solutions amid rapid load growth.

The cancellation also has ripple effects. Form Energy, the battery supplier, depends on projects like this to scale operations and create jobs. The company is based in a former steel community that has faced economic decline. Without these opportunities, both the clean energy transition and domestic manufacturing goals risk losing momentum.

MITCHELL CEMENT PLANT DECARBONIZATION PROJECT
Mitchell, IN

Investing in carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the cement industry offers huge climate benefits while also ensuring the future viability of well-paid U.S. manufacturing jobs in a net-zero economy. DOE recognized the need to invest in the future of America’s cement industry and awarded $500 million to install CCS at Heidelberg’s Mitchell Cement Plant in Indiana. In May, that award was terminated. The workers at the Mitchell Plant are members of the United Steelworkers, and the project aimed to capture at least 95% of the CO2 emissions from the plant and store it safely in the subsurface, preventing 2 million tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere annually. The project would not only have reduced CO2 emissions, but also a host of harmful air pollutants that impact plant workers and fenceline communities. The project would have created 1,000 construction jobs, 20-25 full-time jobs, and given the existing workforce at the facility the security of producing an in-demand, product made in a cleaner way.[69]

The cement industry employs over 10,000 workers in the United States, more than half of whom are unionized, with thousands more mixing and pouring concrete at construction projects across the nation.[70] Cement is the key ingredient in the most ubiquitous manmade substance on earth, concrete, and it is one of the most challenging to decarbonize.[71] The process-emissions inherent to cement's production, which come from the calcination of limestone, account for two-thirds of its total CO2 emissions. That is why cement is one of the most climate-aligned use cases for CCS.[72, 73]

ARCHES HYDROGEN HUB

California

The BIL launched the Hydrogen Hubs program to scale up economy-wide production and use of low-carbon hydrogen. DOE chose seven regional hubs, including ARCHES—the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems. ARCHES secured a $1.2 billion grant to produce hydrogen using renewable electricity and deploy it to decarbonize some of California's heaviest polluting sectors. Now, the Trump DOE has terminated these efforts, denying frontline communities cleaner air and workers the good jobs they were promised.

The project negotiated and released a CBP that ensured meaningful engagement with labor and community partners and clear accountability.[74] ARCHES set a goal to reach 47,000 tons of clean renewable hydrogen per day by 2045. Meeting that target would have created more than 200,000 jobs statewide and saved nearly $3 billion annually in health costs by cutting pollutant emissions.[75] New jobs in the hydrogen industry require skill sets comparable to those held by workers in the existing fossil fuel sector, offering an opportunity to smoothly transition workers into the growing clean hydrogen industry. Every private-sector member of ARCHES is committed to working with unions under a project labor agreement, ensuring that those jobs would have been high quality and family-supporting.[76]

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS

Kansas and Missouri

In November 2024, DOE announced a conditional commitment for a $4.9 billion loan guarantee to support the Grain Belt Express—a 2,500 MW high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line spanning nearly 578 miles across Kansas and Missouri. This project aimed to connect three regional grids: the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and Associated Electric Cooperative Incorporated (AECI).[77] However, in July, DOE reversed course, stating that "it is not critical for the federal government to have a role in supporting this project."[78] The decision was announced after Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) expressed his opposition to the project during an Oval Office meeting with President Trump. It remains unclear whether the decision was based on sound analysis or influenced by political considerations.

The Grain Belt Express is intended to provide access to low-cost wind and solar energy across the region at a time when the National Transmission Needs Study projects that interregional transmission capacity between SPP and MISO must grow by 1,000% by 2035 to meet demand.[79] The developer committed to a CBP that included creating 1,110 direct jobs and using union labor for construction. By canceling its conditional commitment, DOE is not only prolonging already time-intensive transmission planning processes but also jeopardizes the project moving forward and thus affordable electricity for data centers, manufacturers, households, and businesses throughout the region.

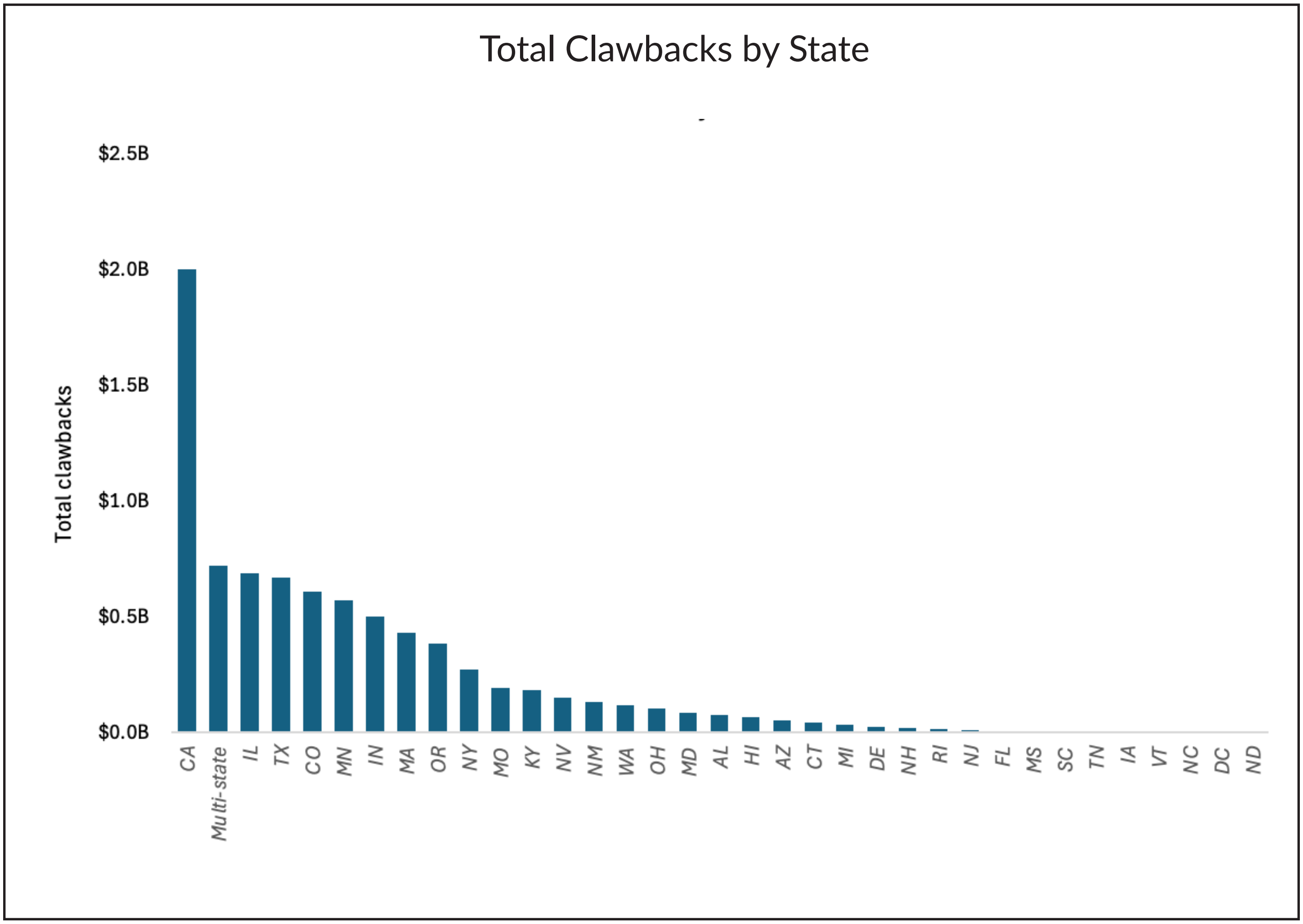
CONCLUSION

The Trump administration's decision to cancel billions in clean energy investments is more than a policy reversal—it's a strategic blunder that jeopardizes jobs in communities around America, U.S. economic leadership, energy security, and climate commitments. These actions dismantle programs Congress explicitly funded to strengthen domestic manufacturing, accelerate innovation, and ensure U.S. competitiveness in a global market racing toward decarbonization. Once these industries and supply chains move overseas, history shows they are extraordinarily challenging and expensive to reclaim.

DOE was created as a cornerstone of U.S. energy strategy, and its ability to develop, demonstrate, and deploy next-generation energy technologies is now under threat. If the United States abandons clean technology research, demonstration, and deployment programs, we will not only lose good union jobs and community benefits—we will lose the ability to lead in technologies that define the 21st century economy. Congress must defend its constitutional authority, restore funding for cancelled projects, and recommit to a long-term industrial strategy. DOE should reverse course from their deceitful sabotage of public funding and domestic manufacturing. They must partner with the private sector to shepherd the United States back into the driver's seat of the clean energy economy. Anything less risks locking the United States into dependence on foreign supply chains and fossil fuels. We cannot afford to forfeit the economic, security, and climate advantages that come from investing in good jobs, in communities, and in the workers that will power the United States' manufacturing and clean energy future.

APPENDIX

Timeline of DOE Cancellations				
Date	Origin of Action	Description	Number of Impacted Awards	Amount of Impacted Funding
5/15/2025	DOE / Sec. Wright	Sec. Wright initiates financial review of existing DOE-funded projects[80]		
5/30/2025	DOE / Sec. Wright	First wave of DOE cuts, impacting 24 awards worth $3.7B[81]	24	$3,700,000,000
7/4/2025	U.S. Congress / White House	OBBBA signed into law[82]		
9/24/2025	DOE / Sec. Wright	DOE announces intent to rescind up to $13B in unobligated IRA funding[83, 84]		
10/2/2025	DOE / Sec. Wright	Second wave of DOE cuts, impacting 321 awards worth $7.56B[85, 86]	321	$7,560,000,000
10/7/2025	DOE / Sec. Wright [Leak from unknown source believed to be at DOE]	Rumors surface about new, bigger list of projects that DOE may potentially cut[87]		
10/20/2025	DOE / Sec. Wright	Third wave of DOE cuts, impacting 5 awards worth $700M[88]	5	$700,000,000


Total Clawbacks by State
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ENDNOTES

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