

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SE
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Secretary Wright,

I write to you once again to urge the termination of the Department of Energy's (DOE) \$4.9 billion conditional loan to the green-energy Grain Belt Express (GBE) transmission line. Your department recently terminated 24 awards issued by the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), citing "that these projects failed to advance the energy needs of the American people, were not economically viable and would not generate a positive return on investment of taxpayer dollars." Yet the GBE conditional loan has not been cancelled.

I have repeatedly raised concerns to DOE about the viability of this transmission line. Most recently, on March 25, 2025, I wrote to you after officials from the Department of Energy confirmed that your department is moving forward with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, a key step in approving the loan. I have yet to receive a substantive response to that letter.

During a recent House hearing, you [stated](#), "It is deeply concerning how billions of dollars were rushed out the door without proper due diligence in the final days of the Biden administration." I completely agree. The Biden administration's Department of Energy approved the loan to the Grain Belt Express at the eleventh hour.

While I applaud DOE's current efforts to roll back last-minute Biden era green energy projects that were not vetted nor were reliable energy projects, I've become increasingly concerned that DOE apparently has not taken action to halt all federal funding to the Grain Belt Express. Your department should be taking every possible action to stop this loan – not only to save taxpayer's money, but also to save generational land from being ripped away from families and hard-working farmers and ranchers in Missouri.

Now is the time to act. I urge you to immediately terminate all agency actions related to the Department of Energy's \$4.9 billion loan to the Grain Belt Express. Additionally, please answer the following questions by no later than June 30, 2025:

1. Why has your department not yet cancelled the Grain Belt Express \$4.9 billion conditional loan?
2. Does your department plan to terminate all agency actions related to advancing the loan to the Grain Belt Express?
3. If not, can you provide clear and concise reasons as to why you and your department continue to advance this project over the objections of Missouri farmers and ranchers?

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
United States Senator