



January 13, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I write in support of Mr. Chris Wright to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Mr. Wright's deep knowledge of the U.S. energy industry and strong business acumen makes him well-positioned to lead the department.

The commercial explosives industry, including manufacturers, distributors and users, is vital to the U.S. economy, contributing more than \$19 billion annually to the U.S. economy and creating 15,000 direct industry jobs and more than 60,000 total jobs.

Commercial explosives play a vital role in ensuring our nation has a diverse energy supply that is both abundant and affordable. This includes the development of traditional sources of energy like coal, oil, and natural gas. Commercial explosives also play a significant role in sourcing the critical minerals necessary for the manufacture of modern renewable energy technologies that are part of a low-carbon economy.

We believe Mr. Wright will take a balanced approach to ensuring our nation continues on a path to energy independence by supporting innovation and working to streamline the permitting process and building a resilient energy grid.

I strongly encourage the committee to approve Mr. Wright for the position of Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy and favorably report his nomination to the full Senate for confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Clark Mica', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. Clark Mica  
President