

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, *et al.*

Plaintiffs,

v.

CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT, in his official capacity  
as Secretary of Energy, *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No. 1:25-cv-12249-WGY

**DECLARATION OF JEFF NOVAK**

I, Jeff Novak, declare the following pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746:

1. I presently serve as the Principal Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”), a role I assumed in May 2025. Because President Trump’s nominee for General Counsel of DOE has not yet been confirmed by the United States Senate, I also serve as DOE’s Acting General Counsel and temporarily fulfill the duties of DOE’s principal legal officer. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7132(e).

2. Through my official duties, I have become aware of the DOE Climate Working Group, its members (Dr. John Christy, Dr. Judith Curry, Dr. Steven Koonin, Dr. Ross McKittrick, and Dr. Roy Spencer), and its Report made publicly available on DOE’s website. *Available at* [http://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOE\\_Critical\\_Review\\_of\\_Impacts\\_of\\_GHG\\_Emissions\\_on\\_the\\_US\\_Climate\\_July\\_2025.pdf](http://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOE_Critical_Review_of_Impacts_of_GHG_Emissions_on_the_US_Climate_July_2025.pdf) (last visited Sept. 4, 2025).

3. On September 3, 2025, I transmitted to all members of the DOE Climate Working Group, via electronic mail, a Portable Document Format (“PDF”) copy of a letter signed by U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of this letter.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 4th day of September, 2025, at Washington, D.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Novak", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Novak

# Exhibit 1



## The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 03, 2025

To the Esteemed Members of the Climate Working Group:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy, I write to express deep gratitude for your exceptional service and contributions to the Department and the American people.

When I assumed my office earlier this year, it became increasingly clear just how much ideological capture had stifled debate and eroded public trust in the federal government's scientific research. With the President's support, I've aimed to reposition the Department as a sponsor of gold standard science and an organization committed to advancing not just science, but also scientific discourse. Accordingly, I assembled this team to engage critically with existing climate research and to provide an overview of the state of the research – both its certainties and its uncertainties – as a means to catalyze scientific and public debate. In return, you asked only for the freedom to do this without political oversight or intervention. I was happy to oblige.

Your draft report, "*A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate*," and the resulting debate it invited exceeded my expectations. The draft combs through scientific literature, public and proprietary data sets, and governmental publications to point out what's known about Earth's climate, and, just as importantly, how much we do not yet know. The discourse around this issue will benefit from your work and the public comment process; both create long overdue space for a variety of scientific viewpoints.

Given the ideological capture of the scientific discourse in this area, it is unsurprising that we are now facing yet another effort to declare the science "settled" and to shut down this debate. It's said that "the faculties of the mind are excited by collision." Having collided with so many orthodoxies, I'm confident that we've excited the much-needed debate in this area and can dissolve the Climate Working Group without undermining that goal. Each of you remains free, as always, to continue engaging in that debate.

Again, my profound thanks for your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wright".

Chris Wright  
Secretary of Energy