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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2214

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

March 1, 2021

Secretary Jennifer Granholm
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I want to congratulate you on your confirmation as the new Secretary of Energy! I appreciate your views and how you plan to address the energy challenges facing our country, including those in our home state of Michigan. I could not be more proud to see a fellow Michigander leading the Department, especially someone who understands the unique challenges faced by our communities and who is prepared to help push our country forward to protect our environment, grow our economy, and move our energy infrastructure into the 21st century.

Your commitment to helping our country combat climate change, advancing electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and growing the clean energy workforce will be a tremendous asset to this country. As the former governor of Michigan, you have an unparalleled understanding and perspective on the challenges, and more importantly the road forward, for the automotive manufacturing industry. Among my top priorities in the 117th Congress is to help our automotive industry through the expansion of a robust and nationwide EV charging infrastructure system and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels for transportation. Clean energy is important to me and critical for the future of our nation and our planet. I hope to see this technology become accessible to all Americans, especially those in underserved communities. Please consider me a partner on this front as we collectively work to prepare for the future of the growing EV grid.

I am proud to represent Detroit, America's "Motor City," which has always been a great contributor to our nation's economy. As the automotive manufacturing industry continues to make great strides and works to expand EV production, I am committed to doing what I can in Congress to help the industry in its effort to tackle climate change and strengthen the standing of American autoworkers and manufacturers. As a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, I look forward to partnering with you to advance vital energy programs and research and development initiatives being undertaken by the Department. Aside from EVs, Michigan has always been home to great energy innovation, including Michigan State University's Facility for Rare Isotopes Beams which, once online, will be considered one of the most powerful nuclear accelerators in the world. Michigan also ranks among the nation's top fifteen states in wind power generation and continues its efforts to grow investments in renewable energy.

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I look forward to your leadership at the Department to help keep Michigan and the United States at the forefront of energy development and supporting the clean energy workforce by directing robust investment in our country's energy sector. I am eager to work with you on shared energy priorities important to my district and the state of Michigan and would appreciate the chance to meet with you to discuss how I can best assist you in advancing the Department's goals and combatting climate change. Thank you, and congratulations again on your new role!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda L. Lawrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brenda" being more prominent than the last name "Lawrence".

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress