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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND
LIMITED GOVERNMENT

CRIME AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE OF COUNTERTERRORISM & INTELLIGENCE

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

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Burgum and Secretary Hegseth:

I write to you once again to request access to the classified documents cited by the Department of Interior as the rationale for stopping work on five ongoing offshore wind projects, which have invested \$25 billion in the American economy, created more than 10,000 jobs, and would power an estimated 2.5 million homes. On December 23, 2025, I previously wrote to you to request access to the documents referenced in the Department of Interior's press release¹ announcing the pause, as well as a classified briefing with both the Departments of Interior and Defense to discuss these materials during the week of January 5, 2026. As of today, neither the Department of Interior (DOI) nor the Department of Defense (DOD) has contacted my office to schedule a briefing, nor have you provided access to the classified materials for my review pursuant to my Constitutional oversight duties.

One of the five halted projects, Empire Wind 1, is based in my district in southern Brooklyn. Equinor has already spent \$4 billion on the construction of their offshore wind facilities, which has had a significant effect on New York's local economy. In fact, in the eight months since the Administration's previous stop work order on Empire Wind 1 was lifted in May of 2025², Equinor has spent \$1.5 billion to continue the development of this project. Overall, the project plans to invest close to \$5 billion in New York over its lifetime, and approximately \$2 billion in 2026 alone. This includes \$1.3 billion to build out New York's supply chains, including critical port infrastructure, and \$27 million for community and workforce development programs. The project will also provide \$890 million to be invested in surrounding communities.

¹ <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/trump-administration-protects-us-national-security-pausing-offshore-wind-leases>

² <https://www.equinor.com/news/20250519-empire-wind-project-resumes-construction>

However, even though the project is well on its way towards completion, these funds have now been unnecessarily put at risk as the result of the Administration's inexplicable refusal to work with my office to develop a strategy to mitigate these newly-discovered national security concerns so that construction may continue. Every day the project is on hold threatens the loss of thousands of jobs and tens of millions of dollars in wages. For an Administration that is concerned with fiscal responsibility and reducing waste, this decision is breathtakingly short-sighted.

As you know, DOD is heavily involved in the offshore wind site selection process, working with DOI via the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to ensure that any prospective project does not negatively impact military operations or readiness, as well as to mitigate any potential impacts on radar, sonar, or flight paths. In addition, prior to breaking ground on Empire Wind 1, Equinor worked directly with DOD to develop a plan to mitigate any potential security concerns stemming from the construction of this particular project. I also understand that representatives from Equinor have been in regular communication with both DOD and DOI as this project has moved forward over the past eight years. In light of both DOD's prior approval of the Empire Wind 1 project site and the mitigation agreement DOD entered into with Equinor to address previously raised concerns, it is almost incomprehensible that newly-discovered classified information would come to light overriding all previous analysis done by the Department.

As such, I am again reiterating my request for both access to the classified materials cited by the Department of the Interior in its press release pausing Empire Wind 1's lease, as well as a briefing with the relevant officials from both the Departments of Defense and Interior. If these national security concerns are as serious as you have alleged, Congress has a compelling need to know as soon as possible and your departments need not avoid transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Goldman".

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress