Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

July 20, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

I write to once again urge you to end the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) recent practice of unjustifiably invoking Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act to revive or extend the life of outdated, expensive coal power plants. Not only are you making energy bills go up for Wisconsinites with no demonstrated need or benefit, but this practice flies in the face of state, local, and utility planning efforts. Rather than needlessly increasing energy bills for American families, U.S. DOE should follow Wisconsin's lead by refocusing its efforts on accelerating our nation's transition to a clean energy economy and lowering costs for working families.

In my letter to you, dated April 22, I outlined the negative impacts of your actions forcing the J.H. Campbell Power Plant in Michigan and the R.M. Schahfer and F.B. Culley power generating stations in Indiana to continue operations past their scheduled useful lives. Despite my outreach, you have since chosen to renew the Section 202(c) orders on these plants; the Campbell plant's order was renewed for a fifth time on May 19 and is in effect until Aug. 16, 2026, and the Schahfer and Culley plants' orders were renewed for a third time on June 19 and are in effect until Sept. 19, 2026. This means Wisconsinites will continue to foot the bill to keep these regional plants online despite their age, inefficacy, and, in some cases, their own operating utilities' plea to allow these expired assets to be shut down. A recent analysis shows that if U.S. DOE continues to issue these 202(c) orders in this way, it could cost American families between \$3.1 billion and \$5.9 billion over the next few years, including an estimated \$117 million in increased costs to ratepayers here in Wisconsin alone.

Mr. Secretary, let me be clear: There is no such thing as "clean coal," and your continued use of 202(c) orders is harming Wisconsinites. I ask that you allow these current 202(c) orders to expire and refrain from issuing any new 202(c) orders, especially in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprint. Wisconsinites should not and cannot continue to pay for the Trump Administration's reckless decisions.

Instead of forcing old, expensive coal power plants to stay online past their scheduled retirement dates, U.S. DOE should be working to lower energy costs for Americans, including investing in and supporting new clean energy production, which is by far the cheapest new energy generation available today. This also includes bolstering energy efficiency and electrification, instead of weakening these efforts through program guideline changes to the successful Home Energy Rebates programs as U.S. DOE has recently done. My administration has been a national leader in the rollout and implementation of the Home Energy Rebates programs: Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to launch the energy efficiency-focused HOMES rebate program in August 2024 and one of the first states in the nation to launch both the HOMES and the electrification-focused HEAR rebate program in December 2024. To date, over $12 million of these funds have gone out to Wisconsin families across the state, helping them save money on their energy bills and make their homes more energy efficient. Unfortunately, much like the 202(c) orders, this is another example of U.S. DOE continuing to needlessly interfere with and obstruct state-led progress.

Here in Wisconsin, we will follow the science and accelerate our progress towards a clean energy economy by continuing to implement our state's first-ever Clean Energy Plan, creating good-paying jobs, bolstering our economy, saving households money, and improving our air and water quality. The last thing we need is President Trump and the Trump Administration making our work even harder. I once again urge you to do the right thing by letting these orders expire so we can keep our kids, families, and communities healthy and safe, help working families save on utility bills, and ensure Wisconsin's continued economic success.

In service,

Tony Evers

Tony Evers
Governor