

Opening Statement

Madam Chairman Taylor Green, Ranking Member Stansbury,

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today. Three words often heard in tandem with Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE are waste, fraud, and abuse, and I hope my testimony can shed light on the third: abuse.

I started my organization Power The Future to advocate for energy workers in rural America. It has come to light that on the other side of that fight, the climate movement, received billions from taxpayers, and that is the abuse I wish to highlight.

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act set aside hundreds of billions of dollars for the green agenda. The Environmental Protection Agency received tens of billions. As reported by the Washington Free Beacon, a staffer from an environmental group called The Coalition for Green Capital [named Jahi Wise joined the Biden EPA](#) to direct \$27 billion in green funding.

For context, \$27 billion is larger than the budgets of the Departments of Treasury, Interior, and Commerce, yet Mr. Jahi went through no confirmation process, and his decision to direct tens of billions to organizations of his choosing had no Congressional oversight.

Conveniently, under his tenure at this new EPA office, \$5 billion was granted to his former organization, the Coalition for Green Capital.

The abundance of green dollars created a new, pernicious mechanism: create a group for the sole purpose of getting government grants. For example, Power Forward Communities, was only a few months old when it applied for, and received, nearly \$9 billion to distribute at its own discretion. One lucky recipient was an organization affiliated with two-time Georgia Gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams. With only \$100 in the bank this group received \$2 billion.

Yes, it is legal to create a non-profit, get IRS accreditation, and apply for and receive government grants. But it is fair to question the process and demand transparency. What does the application for a \$9 billion grant look like, particularly when an organization has no staff, no history in the space, no office, and is only a few months old? A Department of Defense grant that size would have layers of oversight and scrutiny. A Department of Transportation grant that size would require a bond to guarantee deliverables. It seems that in the name of climate change, unvetted, unelected, unconfirmed bureaucrats require no safeguards.

This is the precedent of pernicious funding. Any future President can announce a slush fund, appoint loyalists to dole it out, and anyone can create a group to get government billions, if they know the right people, bypassing that pesky thing called Congress.

In his recent Senate Hearing, Secretary of State Rubio said DOGE uncovered for every dollar spent by USAID, only 12 cents was actually received in aid. The rest was spent on overhead: high salaries, dinners, events, travel, raising awareness. etc. Some call it overhead. A better term is graft.

But this funding scandal is far worse in context, for at the same time the Biden Administration was generously rewarding climate groups with billions, they enact the most radical energy agenda in history which punished the American people. Making energy expensive made life expensive, and we saw under the Biden Administration record high inflation, with skyrocketing price of energy, gas, utilities, food, and consumer goods.

Bad enough to dole out billions, but to do it to the very groups making America unaffordable was a new level of low for DC. And unless this Congress changes the laws, the mechanisms are still in place to appropriate new funds using a new crisis, forming new groups, skirting Congress, ripping off taxpayers.

Last week my organization sent letters to this Committee and the Attorney General calling for an investigation into the Biden Administration use and abuse of the autopen on green Executive Orders asking if Biden himself directed them or if staff took leniencies, a very severe accusation made even more plausible in the light of this hearing: abuse. Abuse of the purse, and abuse of the pen, all so that climate groups and their political allies could benefit.

This is the very worst of Washington, and why the American people have little trust in government. For our nation to survive, Congress must restore trust in government, end the slush fund abuse, stop the graft, and it is my sincere hope that my appearance here today can help begin the process.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.