Department of Energy (DOE)

I. INTRODUCTION

The **Department of Energy (DOE)** is **responsible** for matters of federal energy policy and the management of U.S. nuclear infrastructure. Tracing its origin to the **Manhattan Project**, the DOE's broad portfolio encompasses matters of energy policy and national security. Through the department's **Office of Enforcement**, the DOE is able to ensure compliance with safety and security guidelines, including at **nuclear facilities**. The DOE possesses **grantmaking** authority for private energy ventures and state, municipal, and tribal energy projects.

Within the DOE are a number of federal agencies with key roles to play in securing a just transition. DOE units such as the **Office of Science** (SC) and the **Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy** (ARPA-E) promote and fund scientific research in the realm of energy. The four **Power Marketing Administrations** (PMAs), which sell power to 34 states, are also administered by the DOE. The **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** (FERC) — which is a fully independent agency, though it is housed in DOE — regulates interstate transmission of gas, oil, and electricity, and also oversees the review of proposals to build gas pipelines and terminals.

Under the Trump Administration, the DOE championed liquefied natural gas (LNG) despite its **detrimental impact** on the environment, with department press releases referring to LNGs as "**freedom gas**". As Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry prioritized the financial interests of his personal associates over **climate** concerns. At the tail-end of Donald Trump's presidency, the DOE revised National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations in order to **eliminate** evaluations of natural gas exports on the environment.

To lead the DOE, Biden selected former Michigan Governor **Jennifer Granholm**, who has a record of **criticizing** environmentally harmful projects such as the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines. Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 60 new DOE programs as well as a dozen Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment (RDD&D) programs that develop energy technologies will **receive funding**. Top priorities for the DOE must include intensifying green energy research, setting stronger efficiency standards, and backstopping low-interest loans to clean energy companies.

II. THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD ON THE DOE

Issued New Efficiency Standards

The Trump Administration presided over a **mass dismantling** of environmental regulations, including the sabotage of key energy efficiency standards set by DOE. To take just one example, under the Obama Administration, the DOE proposed new lightbulb efficiency standards in an effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Following **substantial lobbying** from lightbulb manufacturers, the Trump-era DOE issued rulemaking in 2019 reversing the proposed rules. In doing so, the DOE enabled

the continued dependence on environmentally destructive incandescent light bulbs, which **produce** 4,500 lbs of carbon dioxide each year, compared to just 451 lbs created by popular LED bulbs.

Since his time in the Senate, Biden has **advocated** for easing dependence on incandescent light bulbs, arguing in 2007 that transitioning to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) would help "reduce environmental damage while saving money on electricity costs." In May 2021, the Biden DOE took **formal steps** to reinstate the Obama-era standards, and **officially proposed** the imposition of lightbulb efficiency standards in December 2021. As **documented** by the Revolving Door Project's Fatou Ndiaye, this effort, alongside a dozen other efficiency standards proposed by the Biden Administration, stands to meaningfully reduce U.S. carbon emissions. Per the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), these efforts can lead to a **reduction** in some 2.9 billion metric tons of carbon emissions by 2050.

Launched New Initiatives and Proposed Organizational Overhaul

Proposals for a "Clean Energy Corps" to help secure a just transition have existed for **at least a decade**. In 2022, the DOE officially launched its Clean Energy Corps initiative, whose ranks include current department staffers alongside 1,000 new employees. The initiative, which marks the department's **largest staff expansion** since 1977, is responsible for investing the $62 billion allocated by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan to clean energy projects. An expanded Clean Energy Corps can feasibly help develop America's clean energy infrastructure and climate change mitigation efforts.

The Biden Administration notably spent **$7.4 billion** of the $1.2 trillion in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan investing in the DOE's Office of Science, which marks a spending increase of over $400 million for the agency compared to 2021. The DOE has also sought to overhaul its leadership structure. In February 2022, the DOE proposed a **new position** within the department: An Undersecretary of Energy for Infrastructure, who will be subject to Senate confirmation.

Unfortunately, the Biden Administration's proposal for an **Advanced Research Projects Agency–Climate** (ARPA-C) program, modeled after the existing **Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E)** initiative, did not materialize. The proposed DOE agency would have focused on **policy areas** such as climate resiliency and environmentally-sound agriculture. Though the DOE **requested** funding for the agency in its FY 2022 congressional budget request, funding was never allocated for the proposed initiative. The Biden Administration's budget request for FY 2023 does not include a request for funding the proposal, though it **does request** $700 million for ARPA-E versus the $450 million it received in FY 2022.

Issued Draft FERC Guidelines on Gas Pipelines

The **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** (FERC) oversees interstate commercial activity in the electricity and natural gas sectors. Composed of five commissioners subject to Senate confirmation, the agency is tasked with overseeing the review of natural gas pipeline and storage proposals. Additionally, FERC has the power to license non-federal hydropower project initiatives. Due to FERC's long history of rubber-stamping fossil fuel industry efforts, key progressives including Senator **Bernie Sanders**

(I-VT) have endorsed calls to transform the agency into a “Federal Renewable Energy Commission” that would operate as a climate regulator.

In February 2022, FERC announced it was modifying guidelines for certifying interstate natural gas pipelines. This policy revision, made under Section 7 of the **Natural Gas Act of 1938**, was the first of its kind since 1999. It will lead FERC to “consider all impacts of a proposed project, including economic and environmental impacts” during the deliberation process. Additionally, FERC moved to set an annual threshold of 100,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for proposed projects, which would mandate relevant natural gas projects to prepare **Environmental Impact Statements** (EIS). Per the EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, 100,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide is **roughly equivalent** to GHG emissions from 21,547 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles (note on **methodology**) driven for an entire year.

Food & Water Watch, an environmental advocacy group, applauded these developments, though staff attorney Adam Carlesco **noted** that “guidance is not the same thing as action, and we still need to see FERC make substantial improvements in its evaluation of fossil gas projects in practice.” Unfortunately, FERC Chair **Richard Glick**, a Democrat named by Biden to lead the agency, **recast** these policy statements as mere “drafts” in March 2022. This move is a concerning sign that the agency is bowing to industry and conservative political pressure: Senator **Joe Manchin** (D-WV), who has criticized Glick and stands to make-or-break Glick’s potential reappointment, welcomed the move as a “**course-correction**.”

It is worth noting that positive developments related to FERC have occurred as a result of judicial mandate. In August 2021, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia determined that FERC failed to account for potential environmental harm upon approving two **fracked gas export terminals** in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley (RGV). In March 2022, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia **determined** that the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan, “failed to account for the reasonably foreseeable indirect effects of" its pipeline upgrade project on the environment.

Moved to Promote Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies aim to remove carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere through “negative emissions". As documented in a 2021 report by **Data for Progress**, CCS technologies potentially serve the useful function of reducing carbon emmissions in “sectors that are societally useful but difficult to decarbonize such as heavy shipping, aviation, and the production of steel and cement.” However, while CCS has a supplementary role to play in *reducing* carbon emissions in relevant industries, fossil fuel interests have dishonestly pushed CCS as a means to “**greenwash**” their own detrimental impact.

Industry interests have promoted CCS as a *de facto* “get out of jail free card” to justify their harmful activities. As it stands, CCS is not functional at scale and will not be for quite some time: Even in a best case scenario, CCS only has the potential to reduce the impact of *existing* carbon emissions. It does not, however, stand to permit heavy industry — especially the industry at the root of the climate crisis —

to continue business as usual under the false pretense that its environmental impact can be negated. Notions to the contrary are scientifically illiterate, technologically impossible, and ethically unjust.

Unfortunately, to lead the **Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management** (FECM), Biden nominated Brad Crabtree, a former director of the Carbon Capture Coalition. As noted by the Revolving Door Project's Dylan Gyauch-Lewis, Crabtree has **advocated** for carbon captured through CCS to accelerate oil production through enhanced oil recovery (EOR). EOR has been **condemned** by a broad coalition of environmental groups due its detrimental impact, particularly for the water supply. The FECM must lead the way in America's transition from fossil fuel dependency, and the nomination of Crabtree, who has not yet been confirmed, suggests the office will prioritize CCS and EOR research under his leadership.

Selected Record on Personnel

In 2021, clean energy consultant **Tarak Shah** was chosen to serve as Chief of Staff within the DOE. Upon his appointment, Shah became the first person of color, first openly LGBTQ person, and first Indian-American to serve in the role. A strong environmental justice advocate, Shah notably contributed to Data for Progress' "**Progressive Cabinet Project - Shaping a Progressive Administration**" project released in July 2020. Shah left the DOE in March 2022, and was **replaced** by Senior Advisor Christopher Davis.

(Author's Disclosure: In 2020, I served as lead researcher on the "Progressive Cabinet Project - Shaping a Progressive Administration" project, where I had the pleasure of collaborating with Shah.)

Shalanda Baker, nominated to lead the DOE's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity within the DOE, is a progressive who has **endorsed** an approach to the Green New Deal that centers frontline communities. **Sam Brinton**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition within the Office of Nuclear Energy, is a nuclear engineer who has made history as the highest-ranking genderfluid person to hold federal office. **Jigar Shah**, chosen to lead the DOE's Loan Protection Office (LPO), has advocated for utilizing the agency's functions to assist frontline communities of the climate crisis. **Wahleah Johns**, a member of the Navajo (Dine) tribe, is a celebrated renewable energy champion serving as Director of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.

As noted previously, the nomination of Brad Crabtree to lead the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) is concerning due his support for ramping up investment in CCS. As noted by the Revolving Door Project's **Dorothy Slater** in September 2021, the nomination of Maria Robinson as Assistant Secretary in the **Office of Electricity** is potentially concerning due to Robinson's "advoca[cy] for the use of methane gas as a clean "advanced energy" option." As Slater notes, increased use of methane instead of environmentally-sound renewable energy options stands to make meeting the United States' minimum emission reduction target unattainable.

Though there have evidently been strong choices for roles within the DOE, the department still suffers from inefficiencies in replacing past officeholders who left their roles. **Jennifer Kropke**, who served in the newly-created position of Director of Energy Jobs, left in September 2021 and has **not been**

replaced in her role as of March 2022. Given the importance of the role in coordinating the DOE's efforts to promote high-paying jobs in clean energy, it is urgent that she is replaced in her position promptly, especially since it is appointive and does not require an extended confirmation battle.

III. LEVERAGING THE DOE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Building Agency Capacity

In November 2021, the Revolving Door Project released its **Climate Capacity Crisis Report**, which found that the DOE had relatively higher staffing levels compared to other agencies, though certainly not enough to fulfill its mandate. As noted by the Revolving Door Project's Fatou Ndiaye, DOE **hiring slowed** during the Trump era despite the increased funding for the department itself, with units such as the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy being worst affected.

As of June 2021, Biden's DOE had hired 79 more STEM employees than were employed by the department in September 2016. Department-wide, however, the DOE is operating with some 2,645 fewer employees than in the year 2010, despite the fact that the issues facing the department, including **climate change** and **nuclear insecurity**, have only intensified. The DOE has submitted a request to add 198 additional full-time equivalent employees to the department's payroll, and while Congress absolutely must appropriate funds to hire those individuals, that paltry number is unlikely to solve the DOE's capacity crisis.

Forging a Progressive Future for FERC

As noted in Section 2, the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** (FERC) has a crucial role to play in securing a just energy transition. Personnel is policy, and, as noted by Representative **Sean Casten** (D-IL), FERC has unfortunately become a focal point of the revolving door between government and the energy industry. Indeed, FERC appointees of both parties have often come from fossil fuel and utility corporations they regulated in office, only to **return to the sector** after their term in office. Closing the revolving door at FERC is necessary to ensure that decisions made by the agency are done in the public interest and not to the benefit of lucrative energy interests.

In August 2021, a **wide coalition** of environmental groups led by the Center for Biological Diversity wrote to the Biden Administration in favor of appointing one of Sierra Club Georgia's **Daniel Blackman**, Sowing Justice's **Marquita Bradshaw**, or Portland General Electric's **Nidhi Thakar** to FERC. Ultimately, though, Biden nominated utility regulator **Willie Phillips** to FERC in September 2021. His nomination was **met with concern** from many environmental advocates.

As a member of the **District of Columbia Public Service Commission** (DCPSC), Phillips voted to approve energy giant Exelon's acquisition of Pepco. As noted by the Revolving Door Project's Dorothy Slater, Phillips **supported** the deal despite the fact that Pepco continues to use coal and fossil gas for most of its energy production in D.C. In order to fulfill the Biden Administration's efforts to **promote**

competition across sectors, it is imperative that Phillips does not support similar monopolistic efforts while on FERC.

As **articulated** by FERC, "[t]he Commission's goal has always been to find the best possible mix of regulation and competition to protect consumers from the exercise of monopoly power." Combating monopoly power in the sector is important to curbing the dominance of electric utility giants that, as the **Institute for Local Self-Reliance** (ILSR) noted, regularly engage in political lobbying against clean air and water initiatives.

As FERC now has a Democratic majority, it is imperative that the agency advocates for the cause of climate justice. FERC must close the revolving door within the agency and ensure compliance with an order on distributed energy resources (DERs), which **refers** to electrical generation at or near the site they will be used. Issued in September 2020, **FERC Order No. 2222** aims to level the commercial playing field for clean energy projects by allowing DERs, including battery storage and rooftop solar initiatives, to fully participate in wholesale energy markets.

According to FERC, this initiative **stands to** increase competition in the energy sector to the benefit of consumers while encouraging innovation in the clean energy sector to the benefit of the climate. As noted by Hampden T. Macbeth and Jessica R. Bell of New York University School of Law in **July 2021**, the compliance process has been sluggish to the detriment of both decarbonization and competition in the energy sector.

Decarbonization of the U.S. economy requires reinvigorating the country's power infrastructure. As it stands, the country's **transmission infrastructure** does not have the capacity to support the number of proposed wind and solar power projects currently in queue. In July 2021, FERC took early steps towards new rulemaking on transmission lines to help clear up interconnection queues. Though the agency **did not specify** any specific proposals at the time, FERC **formally issued** a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in April 2022 on regional transmission planning. Organizations such as the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) **praised** this development, noting that this rule would remove current barriers to transmission that prevent the expansion of clean energy infrastructure.

Leveraging Climate Justice Through The LPO

With over **$40 billion** in spending authority as of 2021, the DOE's **Loan Programs Office** (LPO) has a crucial role to play in securing a clean energy transition. The LPO administers the **Title 17 Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee Program**, which issues loan guarantees for domestic clean energy projects that serve to sequester or reduce greenhouse gasses (GHG). **According** to the Department of Energy, LPO projects "have directly and cumulatively avoided more than 200 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions" between 2009 and 2021. The program has **received** some $70 billion in active applications per a March 2022 estimate.

During the Trump Administration, the LPO's crucial functions were effectively sabotaged. A report in *The New York Times* at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic **documented** the LPO's failure to disburse some $43 billion in low-interest loans for clean energy initiatives. Going forward, the LPO must

be utilized to its full potential to boost the clean energy sector, especially efforts that **center communities** most harmed by the climate crisis.

On his part, **Jigar Shah**, who was chosen to lead the LPO, has indicated support for an agency approach that centers on climate justice. Potential tangible ways for the LPO to promote climate justice include prioritizing low-interest loans to projects that **respect labor rights** and operate in frontline communities. In March 2022, it was announced that the LPO's portfolio was **upgraded two levels** from "high-risk" single-B to "investment-grade," which Shah stated "will make [the DOE] the single largest provider of commercial debt for B and CCC+ shadow-credit-rated deals in the energy space."

It must be noted that the LPO also retains the authority to provide loans to fossil energy projects through the Title 17 Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee Program. Going forward, it is crucial that the office does not use its authority to assist fossil fuel efforts, even if they are **branded** as "innovative fossil energy technologies". Furthermore, the federal government must itself lead the way in the transition to a clean energy economy: As **suggested** by Evergreen Action, the DOE's **Federal Energy Management Program** (FEMP) "must aggressively pursue energy performance savings contracts advancing efficiency and electrification improvements for partner agencies."

Utilizing the TVA and PMAs' Clean Energy Potential

The **Tennessee Valley Authority** (TVA) is an electric utility corporation owned by the federal government. Created in 1933 as part of the New Deal, the TVA is the single largest public utility in the United States, serving some ten million Americans in Tennessee and surrounding states. In 2021, a **coalition** of nearly 90 advocacy groups wrote to the DOE in support of prioritizing the TVA as a "national laboratory" for the United States' renewable energy revolution.

While the TVA has indicated its intent to retire two of its four coal plants presently in operation, as it stands the TVA is not adequately prepared for a needed transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2030. In March 2022, the TVA chose to invest over $3.5 billion in gas-burning electric plans, a move described by *The New York Times* as being in **direct conflict** with the Biden Administration's stated climate goals. As **noted** by the Revolving Door Project's Dorothy Slater, TVA CEO Jeff Lyash is a former Duke Energy executive who has advanced industry interests in his role. Per Slater, Biden "has the power to nominate an entirely new slate" on the TVA board that could remove Lyash from the role and replace him with someone who works in the interest of the climate.

The DOE oversees the administration of the four **Power Marketing Administrations** (PMAs), which together generate and transmit power to 34 states. During his 2020 presidential run, **Senator Bernie Sanders** (I-VT) endorsed using the TVA, the existing PMAs along with a new PMA to cover remaining states, and the Department of the Interior's **United States Bureau of Reclamation** (USBR) to help achieve a Green New Deal. Under his plan, the agencies would coordinate the sale of renewable energy to distribution utilities, which would be paired with DOE oversight to ensure technical support.

Strengthening Oversight of Nuclear Weapons Technology

Strong oversight of high-risk nuclear facilities operating within the United States is a pertinent national security issue. The **Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board** (DNFSB), an independent federal agency, is **tasked** with advising the "Secretary [in their capacity] as operator and regulator of the defense nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy, in providing adequate protection of public health and safety at such defense nuclear facilities." In 2018, the Trump-era DOE quietly issued a **directive** that restricted the DNFSB's ability to access relevant information pertaining to oversight of DOE-administered nuclear facilities.

As noted by *ProPublica*, this directive came after **extended requests** from the DNFSB to halt dangerous nuclear operations at unsafe sites and improve transparency regarding how sensitive materials were being held. Following pushback from DNFSB members, then-Secretary of Energy Rick Perry **intensified** agency hostility to DNFSB oversight. Under acting chair Bruce Hamilton, a Trump-appointee, the DNFSB pushed in 2018 to **reduce** the number of personnel on the oversight body by almost 32.5 percent.

To the credit of Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm's leadership, the DOE did not reject a **single DNFSB information request** in 2021. Going forward, the Biden Administration must be vigilant in safeguarding America's nuclear arsenal from cybersecurity risks. In December 2020, the DOE's **National Nuclear Security Administration**, which maintains America's nuclear stockpile, was reportedly subject to a **breach** that permeated select agency systems.

Improving Public Nuclear Weapon Transparency

While nuclear-armed states have always erred on the side of secrecy over transparency, there is reason to believe that expanding transparency efforts would be in the interest of national and international security experts. As noted by **Hans Kristensen** of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), responsible transparency is "not only necessary for a healthy public debate about nuclear policy, it is also necessary to communicate to allies and adversaries what that policy is about – and, equally important, to dispel rumors and misunderstandings about what the policy is not."

In October 2021, the Biden Administration reversed the Trump-era DOE's trend towards further secrecy by once again **declassifying the number of nuclear warheads** possessed by the United States. While a commendable move, the release of updated stockpile data did not provide needed clarity regarding developments in the U.S. nuclear program. Indeed, **as noted by the FAS**, the number indicated the first increase in the U.S. nuclear stockpile since the culmination of the Cold War, but due to lack of transparency this could be purely the result of retired warheads returning to the stockpile.

There is no question that the uniquely sensitive nature of nuclear weapons programs necessitates that crucial aspects of their operations remain a state secret. However, reducing the size of the U.S. nuclear arsenal has been a **public effort** of past administrations since the end of the Cold War, and an unexplained increase warrants public disclosure. The DOE itself **explicitly acknowledges** the

importance of stockpile transparency efforts to the cause of disarmament and international nonproliferation efforts.

Improving the DOE's Administration of Nuclear Technology

The **Office of Nuclear Energy** (NE) within the DOE is intimately involved in conducting research into nuclear technologies and ensuring the continued operation of existing reactors. The role of ensuring public safety in the realm of nuclear energy primarily falls within the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** (NRC), an independent federal agency. Despite this, the NE and other DOE agencies have a key role to play in ensuring safe and equitable standards for nuclear energy projects in the U.S. For example, in May 2021, the DOE announced that the **Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy** (ARPA-E) program would receive $40 million to reduce waste produced from advanced reactors.

Indigenous communities, especially in the American West, have disproportionately borne the brunt of **radioactive waste** produced by nuclear energy. In December 2014, the **Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group** (NETWG) was established as a program initiative within the NE to foster intergovernmental communications between the office and tribal governments. However, the DOE under Biden has continued to alienate many Native American communities in the realm of nuclear energy.

The Biden Administration has **received criticism** from members of the Yakama Nation and the State of Washington for **continuing** a Trump-era policy reinterpretation made regarding the cleanup of the **Hanford Site**. Specifically, advocates have raised concern that the agency's 2019 reinterpretation of how "high-level radioactive waste" (HLW) is defined per the **Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982** will inhibit efforts to clean up the decommissioned nuclear facility in Benton County, Washington. The Hanford Site has been described as the "most toxic place in America", and the DOE itself has **acknowledged** the safety risk it poses to workers at Hanford.

According to the **Washington Department of Ecology**, creating a lower standard for "low-level" radioactive waste "could mean that the federal Energy department would propose to leave millions more gallons of waste in the tanks, rather than removing it and incorporating it in glass as currently planned." High-level radioactive waste is legally required to be **vitrified**—a treatment process to stabilize and encapsulate nuclear waste for long-term storage—and this redefinition stands to allow the status quo to remain at the Hanford Site.

IV. GENERAL ASSESSMENT — THE DOE UNDER BIDEN

Under the leadership of Biden and Granholm, new efficiency standards were issued for widely-used household appliances such as light bulbs. The DOE launched a Clean Energy Corps initiative alongside proposed organizational reforms, though ARPA-C unfortunately never materialized. After moving to issue historic guidelines on gas pipes, pressure from industry pressure appears to have deterred the agency from taking action. Notable progressives and climate advocates were chosen for personnel roles, though nominees to lead the FECM and the Office of Electricity hold concerning views on energy policy.

Not dissimilar to other federal agencies, the DOE continues to face a personnel capacity crisis, even though the department submitted a request for nearly 200 additional full-time equivalent employees. Going forward, FERC must ensure full compliance with its historic order on DERs that stands to boost the viability of clean energy. Additionally, FERC must make finalizing proposed rules on transmission lines a priority given the urgency of making sure America's transmission infrastructure has the capacity for proposed clean energy projects. The continued tenure of a fossil fuel industry advocate at the helm of the TVA is unacceptable, and the Biden Administration should nominate an entirely new slate to oversee the TVA's operations.

Given the risks posed by nuclear weapons technology to surrounding environments, it is welcome that the DNFSB did not reject a single oversight request from the DNFSB in 2021. In the interest of both national security and accountable governance, the DOE must improve department disclosure practices on nuclear weapons, in line with the department's stated commitment to nonproliferation. Additionally, the DOE must cease continuing a Trump-era policy reinterpretation regarding nuclear waste at the infamous Hanford Site, which have been criticized by Washington state officials and the Yakama Nation.

Authorship

Aidan Smith is a Senior Advisor at Data for Progress, a progressive think tank. Smith was lead researcher and author of the "Corporate Crackdown Project: Protecting Workers From Corporate Crime" report released in November 2021, and co-authored the "Corporate Crackdown Project: Commerce and Transportation" report released in February 2022. This report represents his personal insight in conjunction with the Revolving Door Project team, not that of Data for Progress.

Project Information

The **Corporate Crackdown Project** series of reports documents the power of the executive branch to pursue vigilant enforcement against corporate lawbreakers. Beginning in November 2022, the Corporate Crackdown Project has produced three full-length reports and one polling memo produced in conjunction with Data for Progress.

About the Revolving Door Project

The **Revolving Door Project** (RDP) is a project of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), a progressive think tank focused on economic policy. RDP scrutinizes executive branch appointees to ensure they use their office in the public interest, not to serve entrenched corporate power or achieve personal advancement.