



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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October 15, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Potential Cuts to Important Energy Jobs and Programs in Kentucky

Dear President Trump,

I write to urge your opposition to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed funding cuts to vital energy projects in Kentucky. These cuts would threaten jobs and economic development in many rural communities in our state and undermine your goal of reinvigorating American manufacturing.

We are told DOE is cutting previously awarded funding from hundreds of energy projects throughout the country, totaling nearly \$24 billion. This includes projects representing over \$537 million of federal investment in Kentucky, threatening hundreds of Kentucky jobs and much-needed economic development and opportunity for Kentucky families and communities across our commonwealth.

One example is Mitsubishi Electric's heat pump compressor manufacturing plant in Maysville, Kentucky. This project was awarded \$50 million as part of DOE's \$169 million program to accelerate domestic heat pump manufacturing capability. The project would repurpose an existing automotive parts manufacturing facility to produce heat pump compressors, helping to re-shore American manufacturing and jobs. Currently, China builds nearly 95% of these compressors. At full capacity, the plant is projected to employ approximately 300 employees and produce over 1 million compressors annually.

Another example is the proposed elimination of DOE's \$316 million award to Ascend Elements Inc., a company that is planning to build an electric vehicle battery recycling and engineered materials manufacturing facility in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. This project is estimated to create 400 Kentucky jobs and reduce the U.S.'s reliance upon battery-related imports from other countries. The U.S. does not currently produce enough critical minerals or materials to domestically produce battery power technologies. The Ascend Elements battery plant will help fill this gap.

Other examples of proposed DOE cuts to Kentucky projects include a \$75 million award for Diageo's production operations in Shelbyville—part of Kentucky's signature bourbon industry. Also, a \$72 million award for a research and development project at PPL's natural gas combined-cycle generation facility in Louisville, and almost \$24 million awarded to the University of Kentucky for energy-related research.

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, my job is to help Kentucky move forward. I strongly urge your administration to reject DOE's proposed cuts to these crucial energy projects in Kentucky. These cuts will only set back economic development and job opportunities in Kentucky and hurt our country's international competitiveness and progress on re-shoring domestic manufacturing.

Sincerely,


Andy Beshear
Governor

CC:
The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585