

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Business Meeting to Consider the Nominations of the Honorable Doug Burgum and Mr. Chris Wright
January 23, 2025

[VIDEO](#) | [AUDIO](#)

Sen. Cantwell: Thank you so much. I wanted to speak briefly about my vote against Mr. Wright for Secretary of Energy.

I voted for the last Trump Energy Secretary nominee and appreciated working with him. The first thing he said when he came here is ‘Hanford and cybersecurity are going to be his number one priorities,’ and I believed him, and he carried through on that commitment.

I understand Mr. Wright has enthusiasm for DOE's role in the national laboratories, and he testified about Hanford having given this country quite a mess and it needed to be cleaned up. However, his commitment to the Tri-Party Agreement and upholding it was unsatisfactory.

This is such a big issue for the State of Washington. We get roughly about \$2 billion a year in the national budget to clean up Hanford. And we have every Energy Secretary, really pushed by OMB, to basically try to do clean up on the short. So I hope maybe between now and the floor, I might get a stronger commitment on this, on the Tri-Party Agreement, but essential for my state to have that commitment, to know that an Energy Secretary is going to fight any efforts by OMB to try to do cleanup on the short end of the stick. We need Hanford cleaned up.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll enter the rest of it in the record.