

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Teri L. Donaldson
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Inspector General Donaldson:

Numerous media outlets published reports that Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm violated the “Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012” or the “STOCK Act” (P.L. 112-105)” at least nine times between April and late October of last year. According to her financial disclosures filed with the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), on December 15th and 16th, Secretary Granholm sold shares of stock worth up to \$240,000, and failed to disclose these sales within the 45-day window mandated by 5 U.S.C. App. 103.

We are concerned by Secretary Granholm’s claims that she was just recently notified about the stock sales that occurred between April 30, 2021 and October 26, 2021, given that Secretary Granholm was selling other stocks during the same time period, including the sale of her shares of Proterra Inc. on May 24, 2021. From March until the end of May of last year, Secretary Granholm made six of the nine stock sales that were not disclosed until this past December.

It is not clear if Department of Energy (DOE) ethics officials have given proper attention to these flagrant violations. According to Walter Schaub, a former director of OGE, DOE ethics officials should have examined Secretary Granholm’s questionable filings in more detail. It remains unclear why Secretary Granholm did not have substantive knowledge of the sales in question when they took place.

A plea of ignorance by Secretary Granholm is not an acceptable defense for the violation of federal law. It is imperative that impropriety on the part of federal officials is taken seriously and that the dignity of the offices in which they serve is upheld. For this reason, we respectfully ask that your office takes the necessary steps to review these infractions with an appropriate level of scrutiny. We request that you report the findings of this review to us no later than February 28, 2022.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce