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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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June 10, 2020

Ms. Lisa A. Jung  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sustainment)  
Pentagon 1E518  
3500 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-3500

Dear Ms. Jung:

I write to inquire about the Department of Defense's progress toward the renewable-energy consumption goal mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and to urge the Department to take immediate action to reach the goal as directed under the law.<sup>1</sup> While I am encouraged by the Department's commitment to using renewable energy, there is still more that can be done to promote the consumption of renewable energy and to foster better stewardship of the Department's financial resources.

The federal government is the nation's largest consumer of energy. The Department of Defense consumes more energy than any other federal agency; it represents 77 percent of the federal government's total energy use.<sup>2</sup> Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 required federal agencies to seek to ensure that 7.5 percent of their annual electricity consumption be in the form of renewable energy by FY2013 and each fiscal year thereafter. The Department fell short of this goal with only 5 percent of its energy coming from renewable sources in FY2013. Five years later, in FY2018, renewable energy consumption still only constituted 5.9 percent of total usage.<sup>3</sup>

While I commend the Department for making good progress toward the goal mandated by 10 U.S.C. § 2911(g) that relates to renewable energy procurement,<sup>4</sup> there is still more to be done. The Department's inability to achieve the renewable energy consumption goal as mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has a substantial impact on the government's energy use as a whole. Therefore, I ask that you please respond to the following questions by July 10, 2020.

1. What challenges does the Department face in reaching the 7.5 percent goal mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005?
2. What are the immediate steps that the Department will take to ensure that it makes progress toward the 7.5 percent renewable energy consumption goal?

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<sup>1</sup> Energy Policy Act of 2005, 42 U.S.C. § 15801, 15852(a)(3).

<sup>2</sup> Heather L. Greenley, Congressional Research Service, *Department of Defense Energy Management: Background and Issues for Congress* (R45832), at 1 (July 25, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Defense, *Annual Energy Management and Resilience Report, FY 2018*, at 5 (June 2019).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* (describing the goal mandated by 10 U.S.C. § 2911(g)).

3. What is the Department's long-term strategy for achieving and maintaining the 7.5 percent goal and working to promote even higher levels of renewable energy consumption?
4. When do you anticipate that the Department will achieve the 7.5 percent goal mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005?
5. What can Congress do to support the Department in achieving this goal?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
Ranking Member  
Federal Spending Oversight and  
Emergency Management Subcommittee