

# United States Senate

July 17, 2020

The Honorable Dan Brouillette  
Secretary of Energy  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Brouillette,

Thank you for your diligent efforts during this challenging time to keep America's energy production and infrastructure as strong as possible. As you know, Wyoming is a leading energy producing state, and stands at the forefront of cutting edge energy technologies. Oil, gas, coal, and renewable energy are the main drivers of our economy. These industries provide thousands of high paying jobs and critical revenues at the local, state, and federal level. Furthermore, Wyoming is a leader in advanced research on carbon capture and coal-to-products technologies.

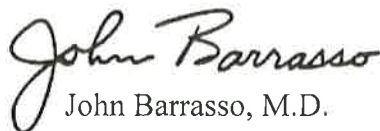
Energy industries face serious economic headwinds due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic slowdown. Research and development budgets were the first to be reduced or eliminated as companies tightened their belts. While there are signs of recovery as economies around the country and world reopen, Wyoming faces a long road ahead.

Wyoming and the Department of Energy (DOE) have forged a strong relationship. Several Wyoming energy projects have been selected for DOE funding in recent years. The state has set aside funds for the purpose of cost-sharing with these grants. We take our energy future seriously, and appreciate our partnership with DOE. This partnership will allow our energy industries to emerge from this crisis with more opportunities and a brighter future.

To advance this relationship, I encourage DOE to open a satellite office in Wyoming. A permanent DOE presence in the state will allow us to build upon this close relationship and further energy research, development, and commercialization objectives of Wyoming and the nation.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and look forward to building this partnership.

Sincerely,

  
John Barrasso, M.D.  
U.S. Senator