

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1009

December 6, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

We write to respectfully demand the resignation of the Department of Energy's Deputy Assistant Secretary of Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition, Sam Brinton, who was recently put on leave following felony theft charges.

Despite not checking a bag before flying out of Washington, D.C., surveillance footage reveals Brinton taking and leaving with luggage from the baggage carousel at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport on September 16th.<sup>1</sup> After initially lying to the police, Brinton later admitted to taking a suitcase valued at \$2,325 and hiding the owner's belongings in a hotel room.<sup>2</sup> Alarming, Brinton has been observed using the stolen suitcase on multiple trips to Washington, D.C.<sup>3</sup>, and was ultimately charged with felony theft, which carries a penalty of up to five years imprisonment, a \$10,000 fine, or both.

As you are aware, your Department issued notice that Sam Brinton was placed on leave without providing crucial context clarifying that Brinton's recent employment status was the result of a felony charge. As an appointed official, Sam Brinton represents both your Department and the United States. It is simply not possible for an individual to represent American values and simultaneously violate the felony laws of the land. Brinton's actions, along with your Department's lack of transparency when dealing with this matter, reflect poorly on the Department of Energy, and they raise concern as to the Biden Administration's priorities when appointing high-ranking officials. It is imperative that we do not allow a person charged with a felony to influence America's policies.

Furthermore, our nation is in the midst of an energy crisis – a crisis that was unquestionably created by the Biden Administration's reckless, radical, and failed policies. Your Department should be dedicated to a pro-American energy agenda, focusing on restoring energy

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<sup>1</sup> Catenacci, T. (2022, November 29). *Non-binary Biden nuclear official charged with stealing woman's luggage at airport*. Fox News. Retrieved December 1, 2022, from <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-non-binary-nuclear-official-charged-stealing-womans-luggage-airport>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

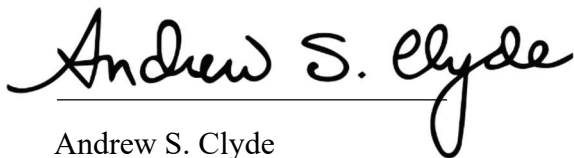
<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

independence and lowering energy prices across the nation. However, to many Americans, it appears that you are more interested in playing politics and protecting an employee who admitted to felony theft to police than providing real solutions for hard-working Americans.

Therefore, we demand the resignation of Sam Brinton, and we implore you to set aside petty politics and appoint only the most qualified and dedicated individuals to influence America's energy sector.

Please provide your fully transparent response no later than December 20, 2022.

Sincerely,



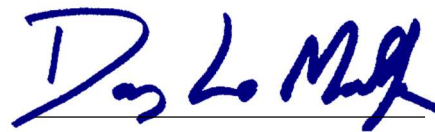
Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



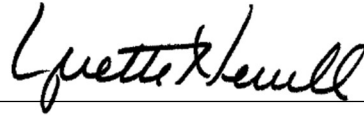
Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



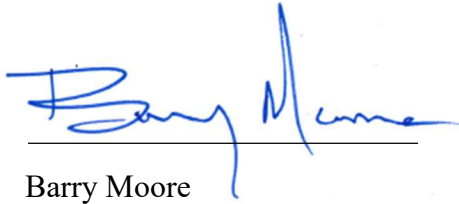
Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress




Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



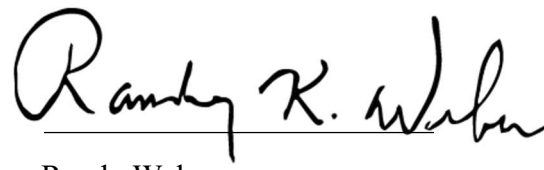
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress