

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <https://commerce.senate.gov>

March 15, 2023

Mr. Ari Matusiak  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rewiring America  
1828 L Street, NW, Suite 300-C  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Lee Bodner  
Board Chair  
Windward Fund  
1828 L Street, NW, Suite 300-C  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Messrs. Matusiak and Bodner,

I write today seeking information about the role of Rewiring America and the Windward Fund in recent efforts by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (“CPSC”) to impose a de facto ban on gas stoves.

While the Biden administration’s efforts to extinguish gas stoves were only recently exposed,<sup>1</sup> Rewiring America was apparently created for this purpose. Cofounder Saul Griffith explained in a 2020 blog post that Rewiring America was created “to address climate change . . . by electrifying everything.”<sup>2</sup> In furtherance of this founding principle, Dr. Leah Stokes, senior policy counsel for Rewiring America, testified to the U.S. Joint Economic Committee that “[t]o address the climate crisis . . . we need to stop building new fossil fuel infrastructure. This includes new and existing infrastructure in the US buildings sector such as gas hot water heaters, gas stoves, gas clothes dryers, and gas furnaces.”<sup>3</sup> Mr. Matusiak made a similar public statement last August, declaring that “where we need to go from a climate perspective is to electrify what amounts to a billion machines across the 121 million households that people rely on to get to and from work, heat the air and water in their homes, cook their food and dry their clothes.”<sup>4</sup> Moreover, Rewiring America’s Facebook page reads like a sale-pitch for induction stoves and heat pumps.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ari Natter, *US Safety Agency to Consider Ban on Gas Stoves Amid Health Fears*, BLOOMBERG (Jan. 9, 2023), available at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-01-09/us-safety-agency-to-consider-ban-on-gas-stoves-amid-health-fears?leadSource=verify%20wall>.

<sup>2</sup> Saul Griffith, *Rewire America!*, MEDIUM (Sept. 1, 2020), available at <https://saulgriffith.medium.com/rewire-america-2e574d4390c6>.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Leah Stokes, *Statement on Examining the Economic Benefits of Electrifying America’s Homes and Buildings*, Joint Economic Committee (Sept. 22, 2021), available at [https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/5e969399-88da-4ac0-b8a5-7316da265138/leah-stokes-testimony.pdf](https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/5e969399-88da-4ac0-b8a5-7316da265138/leah-stokes-testimony.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Maria Virginia Olana and Julia Pyper, *How Much Money Can you Save Under the New Climate Law*, CANARY MEDIA (Aug. 25, 2022), available at <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/electrification/how-much-money-can-you-save-under-the-new-climate-law>.

<sup>5</sup> See Rewiring America, Facebook, available at <https://www.facebook.com/rewiringamerica/>.

There is reason to believe that Rewiring America and the Windward Fund, its Arabella Advisors-funded sponsor,<sup>6</sup> in coordination with other left-wing advocacy groups, are trying to achieve this goal by promoting misleading and false studies that the Biden administration can rely on in advancing regulations on gas stoves. For example, Rewiring America research associate Talor Gruenwald led a widely criticized<sup>7</sup> study linking childhood asthma to gas stoves.<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) Secretary Jennifer Granholm used this study to promote the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides tax credits for households to switch from gas to electric stoves.<sup>9</sup>

The administration has shown its gratitude to Rewiring America and the Windward Fund for their efforts to curtail gas stove usage in several ways. DOE named Rewiring America a *Better Climate Challenge* ally.<sup>10</sup> And the recommendations DOE set forth in its *Better Climate Challenge* mirror Rewiring America’s plans for residential, commercial, and industrial buildings to transition away from natural gas furnaces and water heaters<sup>11</sup> and for commercial kitchens to replace their gas equipment with electric.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, I understand that Mr. Matusiak spoke at the House Democratic Caucus Issues Conference on March 2, 2023.<sup>13</sup>

Notably, the administration is advancing Rewiring America’s and the Windward Fund’s efforts. Although CPSC Commissioner Richard Trumka, Jr. withdrew his attempted formal rulemaking aimed at banning gas stoves,<sup>14</sup> CPSC nonetheless has taken the necessary first step

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<sup>6</sup> *Project Directory*, Windward Fund, available at <https://www.windwardfund.org/project-directory/>.

<sup>7</sup> See Breanne Deppish, *What To Know About the Study Behind the Push to Ban Gas Stoves*, THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER (Jan. 11, 2023), available at <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy-environment/what-to-know-gas-stove-study>; Thomas Catenacci, *New Seeping Analysis Debunks Reports Blaming Gas Stoves for Respiratory Illness*, FOX NEWS (Mar. 2, 2023), available at <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/new-sweeping-analysis-debunks-reports-blaming-gas-stoves-respiratory-illness>.

<sup>8</sup> Talor Gruenwald, Brady Seals et al., *Population Attributable Fraction of Gas Stoves and Childhood Asthma in the United States*, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (Dec. 21, 2022), available at <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/1/75>.

<sup>9</sup> @SecGranholm, Twitter (Jan. 4, 2023, 3:30 PM), available at [https://twitter.com/SecGranholm/status/1610735318340075544?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1610735318340075544%7Ctwgr%5Ecfaaafe4acd20dd7277abf3cb88f5451fd1287f%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2F](https://twitter.com/SecGranholm/status/1610735318340075544?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1610735318340075544%7Ctwgr%5Ecfaaafe4acd20dd7277abf3cb88f5451fd1287f%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2F)

<sup>10</sup> *Better Climate Challenge Allies*, U.S. Department of Energy, available at <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/climate-challenge/allies> (last visited Jan. 20, 2023).

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, *Decarbonizing HVAC and Water Heating in Commercial Buildings*, Better Buildings (Nov., 2021), available at <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/Decarbonizing%20HVAC%20and%20Water%20Heating%20in%20Commercial%20Buildings%2011.21.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, *Low Carbon Technology Strategies: Commercial Kitchen*, Better Buildings (Oct. 2021), available at [https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/Kitchen\\_Resource\\_BB\\_Carbon\\_Strategies.pdf](https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/Kitchen_Resource_BB_Carbon_Strategies.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Thomas Catenacci, *Ringleader of Gas Stove Crackdown to Speak at House Democrats’ Annual Conference*, FOX NEWS (Mar. 2, 2023), available at <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ringleader-gas-stove-crackdown-speak-house-democrats-annual-conference>.

<sup>14</sup> *Minutes of Commission Meeting, Decisional Matter: Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Plan*, CPSC (Oct. 26, 2022), available at [https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Commission-Meeting-Minutes-FY-2023-Operating-Plan\\_0.pdf?VersionId=wiJw89I902pxZ\\_6C.Zz08whJ6l6.9fo5](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Commission-Meeting-Minutes-FY-2023-Operating-Plan_0.pdf?VersionId=wiJw89I902pxZ_6C.Zz08whJ6l6.9fo5).

toward a ban. On March 1, 2023, CPSC issued a Request for Information (“RFI”) “on chronic hazards associated with gas ranges and proposed solutions.”<sup>15</sup>

To better understand the Windward Fund’s and Rewiring America’s role in the Biden administration’s apparent whole-of-government approach to eliminate gas-powered appliances and systems without congressional authorization, I am seeking further data and information.

**Please provide written answers and relevant documents in response to the following questions no later than March 29, 2023.** In your response, please specifically identify the question to which you are responding. If you are refusing to respond to a question, please state so explicitly.

1. State whether any employee, director, or executive of the Windward Fund or Rewiring America, discussed gas stoves or ranges with any person at CPSC, including Commissioner Trumka and his staff. If so, please: (i) provide a list of all persons who took part in each discussion, (ii) identify the dates and manner of each discussion, and (iii) provide all documents and communications regarding the discussion(s).
2. State whether any employee, director, or executive of the Windward Fund or Rewiring America discussed CPSC’s work, or potential work, related to gas stoves or ranges with anyone in the White House or anyone else in the administration. If so, please: (i) provide a list of all persons who took part in each discussion, (ii) identify the dates and manner of each discussion, and (iii) provide all documents and communications regarding the discussion(s).
3. CIF’s 2021 IRS 990 form states that it provided the Windward Fund \$400,000.<sup>16</sup>
  - a) Confirm that CIF provided \$400,000 to the Windward Fund. Identify the precise purpose(s) for which CIF directed that money be used.
  - b) Explain how the Windward Fund used that money, including identifying any entities to which it was directed.

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<sup>15</sup> See Breanne Deppisch, *US Agency Seeks Input on Gas Stoves in Step Toward Regulation*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER (Mar. 1, 2023), available at <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy-environment/us-agency-seeks-input-on-gas-stoves-in-step-toward-regulation>; *Ballot Vote Sheet re Draft Federal Register Notice: “Request for information on chronic hazards associated with gas ranges and proposed solutions,”* CPSC (Feb. 22, 2023), available at <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/DraftFederalRegisterNoticeRequestforinformationonchronichazardsassociatedwithgasrangesandproposedsolutions.pdf?VersionId=d4C1FoGDPbvgnhTXJ2IPnuH6BnmvNJU>.

<sup>16</sup> Internal Revenue Service. (2021). *Form 990: Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax: Climate Imperative Foundation*. Document on file with the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

- c) State whether CIF provided any additional money or support (*i.e.*, goods or services) to the Windward Fund or Rewiring America beyond the \$400,000.

Please answer with a “yes” or “no” before providing any further response. For all other moneys or support provided to CIF, (i) identify the amount of money or describe the type of support, (ii) identify the date on which it was provided, (iii) state the purpose for which it was provided and (iv) identify any studies, reports, articles, or any other publications that were generated through that funding or support.

- d) Provide any grants, contracts, or other agreements, including informal email communications, concerning CIF’s payment of \$400,000, or any other payments, to the Windward Fund.

4. State whether Rewiring America or the Windward Fund has provided any money or support (*i.e.* goods or services) to any other entities related to research, publications, or advocacy concerning gas stoves.

Please answer with a “yes” or “no” before providing any further response. For all other moneys or support provided to an entity, (i) identify the recipient, (ii) identify the amount of money or describe the type of support, (iii) identify the date on which it was provided, (iv) state the purpose for which it was provided and (v) identify any studies, reports, articles, or any other publications that were generated through that funding or support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Ted Cruz  
Ranking Member