

November 21, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Dan R. Brouillette
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Deputy Secretary Brouillette:

I write to request information related to Secretary Perry's role in pressuring the Ukrainian government to make changes to the advisory board of state-owned natural gas company Naftogaz and your recent testimony about the issue before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

In May of this year, Secretary Perry attended Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's inauguration. The Associated Press reported that during that trip, "In a private meeting with Zelenskiy, Perry pressed the Ukrainian president to fire members of the Naftogaz advisory board."¹ Secretary Perry has acknowledged that he urged Ukraine to make changes at Naftogaz but claimed, "he did so only at the request of that country's government."²

While we do not know the extent to which Secretary Perry coordinated his efforts with entities outside the federal and Ukrainian governments, he admitted that he discussed matters related to Ukraine with Rudy Giuliani, the President's personal lawyer, at the President's direction earlier this spring.³ The Secretary's efforts also paralleled changes sought by Mr. Giuliani's now-indicted associates, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman.⁴ According to the Associated Press, "As Rudy Giuliani was pushing Ukrainian officials last spring to investigate one of Donald Trump's main political rivals, a group of individuals with ties to the president and his personal lawyer were also active in the former Soviet republic. Their aims were profit, not politics. This circle of businessmen and Republican donors touted connections to Giuliani and Trump while trying to install new management at the top of Ukraine's massive state gas company. Their plan was to then steer lucrative contracts to companies controlled by Trump allies, according to two people with knowledge of their plans."⁵

¹ [Associated Press, 'Profit, not politics: Trump allies sought Ukraine gas deal,' October 7, 2019](#)

² [Politico, 'Perry denies pressing Ukraine on energy company, says he's not resigning,' October 7, 2019](#)

³ [Wall Street Journal, 'Rick Perry Called Rudy Giuliani at Trump's Direction on Ukraine Concerns,' October 16, 2019](#)

⁴ [CNN, 'Prosecutors in Giuliani investigation interested in talking to Ukrainian energy company,' November 18, 2019](#)

⁵ [Associated Press, 'Profit, not politics: Trump allies sought Ukraine gas deal,' October 7, 2019](#)

You recently appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources as part of your nomination to succeed Mr. Perry as Secretary of the Department of Energy.⁶ In response to one of my questions, you acknowledged Secretary Perry held meetings related to restructuring Naftogaz, stating, “I am aware that the Secretary met on occasion with individuals who were asking for assistance with the restructuring, if you will, or reorganization of the state-owned enterprise.”⁷ In follow-up written questions, I asked you to identify who had met with Secretary Perry, but you declined to do so.⁸

Anticorruption reforms to the Ukrainian energy sector are of clear American foreign policy interest. It is critical that American taxpayers have confidence that their federal officials are acting for the American people rather than for the President’s private political interests. To that end, please provide the following information:

1. To whom were you referring when you admitted you had knowledge of Secretary Perry’s meetings with individuals seeking changes to Naftogaz?
2. When and where did these meetings take place?
3. Who else from the Department of Energy, if anyone, joined Secretary Perry for these meetings?
4. In addition to these meetings involving Secretary Perry, did the Secretary have any other direct communication, such as phone calls, with individuals seeking reorganization of Naftogaz? If so, please identify those communications, the dates they occurred, the individuals involved, and describe the substance of those communications.
5. Have department staff participated in or prepared the Secretary for any meetings in which making changes to the Naftogaz Board was a subject of discussion? If so, please identify those staff and meetings and provide any materials produced by them.

Please provide this information no later than December 11, 2019. If you have any questions about this request, you may contact my office at 202-224-5244.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

⁶ Full Committee Nomination Hearing, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, November 14, 2019

⁷ Id., archived webcast at 01:08:45

⁸ U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, November 14, 2019 Nomination Hearing, Questions For the Record Submitted to the Honorable Dan R. Brouillette, at p.6