

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 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:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability—which has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X—and the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation—which has jurisdiction over the Consumer Product Safety Commission (“CPSC”)—we write regarding Rewiring America and the Windward Fund’s role in the CPSC’s recent efforts to impose a de facto ban on gas stoves. On March 15, 2023, one of us—Ranking Member Cruz—wrote to Rewiring America and the Windward Fund requesting information and documents about this matter. Both groups, however, refused to provide substantive responses to those requests.

Although Rewiring America’s newly minted senior counsel, Stacey Abrams, has called concerns about a gas stove ban “a fever dream,” the facts tell a very different story.¹ CPSC has already taken the necessary first step toward a ban, having recently issued a Request for Information “on chronic hazards associated with gas ranges and proposed solutions.”² Indeed, the elimination of gas stoves is Rewiring America’s objective. Rewiring America, which is sponsored by the Windward Fund, was created “to address climate change. . . by electrifying everything,” including stoves.³ And, as explained in the March 15 letter, it has worked hand in hand with the Biden administration to further that goal.

Rather than responding to any of the March 15 letter’s numerous requests for information and documents regarding efforts by Rewiring America and the Windward Fund to ban gas stoves, your groups provided a one paragraph description of Rewiring America that reads like the “About Us” section on the organization’s website. Nothing in that response answered the questions that directly concern the American people, namely, what your groups have been doing to push for the government-mandated elimination of gas stoves. While Rewiring America has

¹ *Stacey Abrams Wants You (To Go Electric)*, Heated (Mar. 24, 2023), <https://heated.world/p/stacey-abrams-wants-you-to-go-electric#details>.

² CPSC, *Request for Information on Chronic Hazards Associated With Gas Ranges and Proposed Solutions* (Mar. 7, 2023), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/07/2023-04554/request-for-information-on-chronic-hazards-associated-with-gas-ranges-and-proposed-solutions>.

³ Saul Griffith, *Rewire America!*, MEDIUM (Sept. 1, 2020), <https://saulgriffith.medium.com/rewire-america-2e574d4390c6>.

refused to provide a substantive response to Ranking Member Cruz’s March 15 letter, its CEO—Mr. Matusiak—had no problem providing information to Democrat Members of Congress last month when he spoke at their 2023 issues conference on “how to maximize historic climate investments.”⁴

Such lack of transparency with Congress and the American public is unacceptable. We therefore expect a complete written response to the requests for information and documents made in the March 15 letter no later than May 10, 2023. For your reference, these requests are included as an appendix to this letter. Further, this letter serves as a reminder to preserve any and all documents and information, including e-mails, text messages, internal message system messages, calls, logs of meetings, and internal memoranda, responsive to the requests in the March 15, 2023 letter.

We look forward to your forthcoming prompt and complete response.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Accountability

Encl: Requests for Information and Documents from March 15, 2023 Letter

⁴ House Democrats 2023 Issues Conference, *Issue Conference Agenda, Thursday, March 2*, <https://punchbowl.news/wp-content/uploads/2023-Democratic-Caucus-Issues-Conference-Program-1.pdf>.

Requests for Information and Documents from March 15, 2023 Letter

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.
 - 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.

 - 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.