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**Subject:** Manchin rules out Trump energy secretary appointment

By Austin Wright

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Sen. [Joe Manchin](#) (D-W.Va.) today ruled himself out as the next Energy secretary, quashing speculation President Donald Trump might nominate him to run the Energy Department and have the governor of West Virginia appoint a Republican senator.

The plan, floated last week in a [Bloomberg News](#) report, could have given the GOP one more vote for its stalled bill to repeal and replace Obamacare.

But Manchin took himself out of the running at a town hall in West Virginia, according to spokesman Jonathan Kott.

The current Energy secretary, Rick Perry, is considered a contender to succeed White House chief of staff John Kelly as head of the Department of Homeland Security.

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