

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing producers, utilities, developers, manufacturers, miners, consumers, distributors, construction contractors and advocacy groups across America's energy industry, we urge the House and Senate to pass the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (S. 4753) in the next two weeks before Congress adjourns. The bill contains critical reforms to our federal permitting process necessary to generate more American energy and minerals, and build the infrastructure needed to deliver it.

America's energy industry is united in one common goal – providing affordable, reliable, cleaner domestic energy. But our current permitting system frequently prevents us from accomplishing that goal bogging down our projects in bureaucratic delays and endless litigation. For example, it can take, on average, up to 10 years to permit a single transmission line and 29 years to move mining projects through the federal permitting process, 3-8 years just for litigation. According to the Council on Environmental Quality, the average time from a Notice of Intent (NOI) to a Record of Decision at the Department of the Interior is 5 years, which excludes time before the NOI and time for litigation. This is unacceptable.

The bipartisan Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 delivers common sense reforms to provide the predictability and timely decision-making needed for large scale energy and mineral projects, without jeopardizing environmental protections. The bill proposes reasonable timelines for agency action and ensures ample opportunity and access to our judicial system.

There is no such thing as a perfect bill. This legislation represents months of difficult negotiation, and it makes tremendous progress toward creating a clear, predictable permitting process. The strong, bipartisan vote in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on July 31 is a clear indication of how vital this legislation is to all aspects of our economy.

Domestic energy and mineral demand is on the rise. Under the existing permitting regime, we cannot meet our energy, security and environmental goals. Failure to act puts in jeopardy hundreds of billions of dollars of private investment in our nation's infrastructure, hundreds of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of metric tons of carbon emissions reductions.

We need action.

We ask for your support in passing permitting reform. Together we can build the energy infrastructure needed to fuel the future and deliver affordable, reliable and clean American energy. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

American Council on Renewable Energy
American Chemistry Council
Advanced Energy United
American Clean Power Association
American Conservation Coalition Action
American Critical Minerals Association
American Exploration and Mining Association
American Pipeline Contractors Association
American Public Gas Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Battery Materials & Technology Coalition
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Center for LNG
Clean Energy Buyers Association
ClearPath Action
Composite Panel Association
ConservAmerica
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions
Electric Power Supply Association
Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association
Grid Action
Hardwood Federation

Metals Service Center Institute
National Association of Manufacturers
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Mining Association
National Ocean Industries Association
National Utility Contractors Associations
Natural Gas Supply Association
Power and Communication Contractors Association
Progressive Policy Institute
Solar Energy Industries Association
Solar Energy Manufacturers for America Coalition
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Water and Sewer Distributors of America
Western Energy Alliance