

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Carper:

The undersigned groups strongly support S. 280, the “Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015,” and urge the Committee to report it favorably to the full Senate as soon as practicable. This critical piece of legislation would provide a streamlined process for developers to obtain environmental permits and approvals for their projects in a timely and efficient manner, allowing jobs to be created and the economy to grow.

Every year that major projects are stalled or cancelled because of a dysfunctional permitting process and a system that allows limitless challenges by opponents of development, millions of jobs are not created. For example, 351 stalled energy projects reviewed in one 2010 study had a total economic value of over \$1 trillion and represented 1.9 million American jobs that were not created.

The Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015 would improve the environmental review and permitting process by:

- Coordinating responsibilities among multiple agencies involved in environmental reviews to ensure that “the trains run on time;”
- Providing for concurrent reviews by agencies, rather than serial reviews;
- Allowing state-level environmental reviews to be used where the state has done a competent job, thereby avoiding needless duplication of state work by federal reviewers;
- Requiring that agencies involve themselves in the process early and comment early, avoiding eleventh-hour objections that can restart the entire review timetable;
- Establishing a reasonable process for determining the scope of project alternatives, so that the environmental review does not devolve into an endless quest to evaluate infeasible alternatives;
- Creating an online “dashboard” to track projects during the environmental review and permitting process; and
- Reducing the statute of limitations to challenge an environmental review under NEPA from six years to 150 days.

S. 280 is a practical, industry-wide approach that builds on successful provisions for environmental review management found in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Act (MAP-21), Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and Section 1609 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015 also embodies the procedural improvements to the environmental review process repeatedly called for by the Obama administration.

This bill would address the problem far too many projects face today: lengthy project delays from endless environmental reviews and challenges resulting in lost opportunities to create jobs and grow the economy. Every year of delay results in millions of jobs not created. The creation of millions of jobs is worth ensuring that our government works faster and more efficiently.

The undersigned groups strongly support S. 280, the “Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015,” and encourage you to support this bill during the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee’s markup of this bill.

Sincerely,

**Alabama**

Alexander City Chamber of Commerce  
Business Council of Alabama  
Dothan Area Chamber  
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce  
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce

**Alaska**

Alaska Chamber  
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

**Arizona**

Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Arizona Manufacturers Council  
Arizona Mining Association  
Chandler Chamber of Commerce  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Flagstaff Chamber  
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce  
Marana Chamber of Commerce  
Scottsdale Area Chamber  
Tempe (AZ) Chamber of Commerce  
Tucson Metro Chamber

## **Arkansas**

Arkansas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (AIPRO)  
Bryant Area Chamber of Commerce

## **California**

Arroyo Grande & Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Associated California Loggers  
Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties  
Fullerton Chamber of Commerce  
Gateway Chambers Alliance  
Hueneme (CA) Chamber of Commerce  
Irvine Chamber of Commerce  
Long Beach Area Chamber  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce  
North American Home Furnishings Association  
Oxnard Chamber  
Pacific-West Fastener Association  
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce  
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce

## **Colorado**

Associated Builders and Contractors, Rocky Mountain  
Associated General Contractors of Colorado  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry (CACI)  
Colorado Mining Association  
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Grand Junction Colorado Area Chamber of Commerce  
Western Energy Alliance

## **Connecticut**

Bridgeport Regional Business Council  
Connecticut Business & Industry Association  
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

## **Delaware**

Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce  
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce  
Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

## **Florida**

Boca Chamber  
Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce  
Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Florida Transportation Builders' Association  
JAX Chamber  
Miramar Pembroke Pines Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce

## **Georgia**

Georgia Chamber of Commerce

## **Idaho**

Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry  
Idaho Mining Association

## **Illinois**

American Foundry Society  
Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
Geneva Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Partnership  
Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce  
Metals Service Center Institute  
Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society  
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce

## **Illinois/Iowa**

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

## **Indiana**

Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Avon Chamber of Commerce  
Indiana Cast Metals Association  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
Indiana Coal Council, Inc.  
Indiana Manufacturers Association  
Wabash County Chamber of Commerce

## **Iowa**

Ames Chamber of Commerce

Iowa Association of Business and Industry

**Kansas**

Wichita Independent Business Association

**Kentucky**

Commerce Lexington Inc.

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Kyndle

Meade County Chamber of Commerce

**Louisiana**

Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana Association of Business and Industry

Louisiana Landowners Association

**Maine**

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

**Maryland**

Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber

Harford County Chamber of Commerce

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association (MAPDA)

**Massachusetts**

Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Independent Oil Marketers Association of New England (IOMA)

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

MetroWest Chamber of Commerce

The United Regional Chamber of Commerce

**Michigan**

Associated General Contractors of Michigan

Associated Wire Rope Fabricators

Detroit Regional Chamber

Foundry Association of Michigan

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

Greater Brighton Chamber of Commerce

Michigan Association of Timbermen

**Minnesota**

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce

Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

**Mississippi**

Monroe County (MS) Chamber of Commerce

**Missouri**

American Soybean Association  
Associated General Contractors of Missouri  
Columbia Chamber of Commerce  
Home Builders Association of Greater Springfield  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Missouri Realtors  
North American Equipment Dealers Association  
St. Louis Regional Chamber

**Montana**

Billings Chamber of Commerce  
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce  
Montana Chamber of Commerce  
Montana Contractors' Association  
Montana Manufacturing Council

**Nebraska**

Greater Omaha Chamber  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

**Nevada**

Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce  
The Chamber of Reno, Sparks, and Northern Nevada

**New Jersey**

Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey  
Morris County Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey Business & Industry Association  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce  
Newark Regional Business Partnership

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

**New York**

Buffalo Niagara Partnership  
Food Industry Alliance of New York State  
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

North Country Chamber of Commerce  
Northeastern Retail Lumber Association  
Rochester Business Alliance  
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.

### **North Carolina**

Charlotte Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry  
North Carolina Chamber  
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce  
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

### **North Dakota**

Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce  
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce  
North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC)

### **Ohio**

Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce  
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Flexible Pavements of Ohio  
Industrial Fasteners Institute  
Licking County Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio Cast Metals Association  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce  
Union County Chamber of Commerce

### **Oklahoma**

Gas Processors Association  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association  
Tulsa Regional Chamber

### **Oregon**

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce  
Associated Oregon Industries (AOI)  
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.  
Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Klamath County Chamber of Commerce  
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce

### **Pennsylvania**

Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry  
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce

Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC  
Hatfield Chamber of Commerce  
Lehigh Valley Builders Association  
NUCA of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
Pennsylvania Foundry Association  
Perry County Chamber of Commerce  
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce  
Somerset County PA Chamber of Commerce  
The Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry

### **Rhode Island**

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Rhode Island Chamber  
Rhode Island Chapter of Associated Builders & Contractors

### **South Carolina**

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce  
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, CVB  
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce  
South Carolina Timber Producers Association

### **Tennessee**

Blount County Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Tennessee Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.  
Johnson City Chamber of Commerce  
Kingsport Chamber of Commerce  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

### **Texas**

American Loggers Council  
Baytown Chamber of Commerce  
East Parker County Chamber of Commerce  
Electronic Security Association (ESA)  
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce  
Frisco Chamber of Commerce  
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Houston Partnership  
Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce  
Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce  
International Association of Drilling Contractors  
Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce



Plano Chamber of Commerce  
South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce  
Texas Association of Business  
Texas Cast Metals Association  
The Longview Chamber of Commerce

### **Utah**

Salt Lake Chamber

### **Virginia**

ACCA - The Indoor Environment & Energy Efficiency Association  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Public Power Association  
American Subcontractors Association, Inc.  
American Trucking Associations  
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Brick Industry Association  
Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)  
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce  
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.  
International Association for Cold Storage Construction  
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce  
National Apartment Association  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
The Aluminum Association  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

### **Washington**

American Exploration & Mining Association  
Association of Washington Business  
Economic Alliance Snohomish County  
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce  
Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce  
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce  
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Washington Retail Association  
Washington Trucking Associations

## **Washington, D.C.**

Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Bakers Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Coatings Association  
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
American Highway Users Alliance  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)  
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Association of American Railroads  
Independent Bakers Association  
Industrial Minerals Association – North America  
Institute of Makers of Explosives  
International Franchise Association  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Neighborhoods  
National Black Chamber of Commerce  
National Council of Textile Organizations  
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association  
National Mining Association  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association (NRCMA)  
Treated Wood Council  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

## **West Virginia**

The Summersville Area Chamber of Commerce  
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
West Virginia Oil Marketers and Grocers Association (OMEGA)  
West Virginia Trucking Association

## **Wisconsin**

Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce  
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce  
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association  
Greater Green Bay Chamber  
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce  
Wisconsin Cast Metals Association  
Wisconsin Grocers Association  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

**Wyoming**

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association

cc: Members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs