



September 26, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1239 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1107 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

The Gulf Coast Industrial Group (GCIG) expresses its support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act), introduced by Chairman Westerman and Representative Golden. This bipartisan legislation makes an important step toward modernizing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and establishing a more efficient, predictable, and transparent permitting process for energy and infrastructure projects.

We commend the leadership of Chair Westerman and Representative Golden in introducing legislation that tackles the pressing need to reform America's broken permitting system. Offshore energy companies are poised to continue investing and innovating across various sectors, including oil and gas, wind, carbon capture, deep-sea mining, geothermal, and other emerging technologies. However, a broken permitting system, which is outdated and inconsistent, hinders progress and discourages investment in one of the world's more challenging regulatory landscapes. The SPEED Act is a solid starting framework for reform, and we look forward to working with Congress to strengthen this important piece of legislation to help deliver the energy our future requires.

The SPEED Act's provisions to streamline NEPA reviews, such as clarifying that NEPA is a procedural statute, establishing equivalency for state and federal reviews to avoid duplication, and imposing strict timelines for environmental assessments and impact statements, are vital to address longstanding inefficiencies. We also applaud the bill's efforts to limit the scope of environmental reviews to effects directly caused by the proposed action, reduce speculative analyses, and expedite judicial resolution of NEPA-related claims.

GCIG is committed to working with the Committee to ensure the SPEED Act delivers a durable, efficient permitting framework that supports both economic development and environmental responsibility. We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and look forward to continued collaboration to advance this legislation.

Respectfully,

*Thomas Lynn Choate*

Thomas L. Choate  
Board Member – Gulf Coast Industrial Group