



May 2, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324-A Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman,

On behalf of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), I write in support of Section 80151 – Project Sponsor Opt-in Fees for Environmental Reviews within the Committee on Natural Resources title of H. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

This provision offers a pragmatic, market-based tool for streamlining National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews. While the underlying statute continues to safeguard the review of the environmental impact of proposed projects, the law's bureaucratic implementation and procedural requirements unnecessarily delay critical energy infrastructure. By allowing project sponsors to pay a voluntary fee – set at 125 percent of anticipated agency costs – to cover the cost of a federal agency's preparation or supervision of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), Section 80151 would ensure:

- **Predictability:** Setting a respective six month and one year deadline for EAs and EISs, would provide energy infrastructure project developers, regulators, and communities a clear timeline for decision-making.
- **Accountability:** By fully funding the government's costs, the opt-in fee program ensures certain agencies have the resources needed to conduct timely, thorough analyses and maintain that agency's budget neutrality.
- **Litigation risk reduction:** Eliminating administrative and judicial challenges to the underlying environmental document, while preserving review of the final agency action, removes the most common source of multi-year delays and costly vacatur that have plagued critical energy infrastructure projects.

Together, these reforms can reduce the financial and legal uncertainty that currently discourage investment in new natural gas pipeline capacity and other linear infrastructure essential to meeting our nation's growing energy, security, and environmental needs.

INGAA and the companies we represent urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to enact Section 80151 of the Committee's budget reconciliation title, and other energy infrastructure

permitting process improvements to continue delivering the benefits of natural gas to the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A Andryszak", written in a cursive style.

Amy Andryszak
President & CEO
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America