



May 2, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman:

ClearPath Action is proud to express support for key provisions related to permitting and energy leasing that are included in the House Committee on Natural Resources Reconciliation Committee Print. The provisions will not only help close budgetary gaps but also accelerate the development of American infrastructure and industrial capacity. ClearPath Action 501(c)(4) advocates for more clean energy innovation, modernized permitting and regulatory reform, America's global competitiveness for manufacturing and unlocking more American resources.

Growing the United States economy to meet rising demand from data centers, artificial intelligence and the reshoring of domestic manufacturing will require a significant expansion of infrastructure and industrial assets. Today, permitting and regulatory unpredictability is the largest barrier to meeting energy, climate and economic development goals at the federal, state and local levels. Regulatory delays, in some cases lasting nearly a decade, are making projects more expensive and impeding billions of dollars of capital that would create American jobs, enhance U.S. energy security, keep consumer costs affordable and reduce emissions. Delays attributable to siting, permitting and interconnection can delay project completion 7-10 years (or more) and make projects cost two to three times more than they should.

Fixing this broken system will not only help close the budgetary gap, it will also strengthen U.S. competitiveness. The U.S. faces intense global competition from adversaries like China and Russia, which are deploying hundreds of billions of dollars in global energy infrastructure to secure their strategic interests and dominate critical supply chains.

ClearPath Action supports:

- **Implementation of permit-by-rule:** Section 80103 requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish a permit-by-rule process where an oil and gas leaseholder may certify compliance with applicable regulations, pay a fee and subsequently receive a permit within 45 days. This approach eliminates case-by-case government reviews and analysis. It shifts the federal government's role from gatekeeping to compliance enforcement, ensuring substantive standards are promulgated to protect public health, safety and the environment. This creates a pathway to bring critical energy projects online in a fraction of the standard timeline while continuing to hold developers accountable for existing environmental standards. It is also a step forward in how a modern permitting system should work.
- **Judicial review reform under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** In addition to helping address the budgetary gap, Section 80151 gives project developers the option to pay 125% of the anticipated cost for an agency to conduct an environmental assessment in exchange for an expedited permitting pathway. If fees are

paid, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be issued within six months and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be issued within one year. These NEPA reviews would not be subject to judicial review, reducing the risk of litigation that stalls progress and discourages investment.

- **Expanded geothermal leasing provisions:** In addition to helping address the budgetary gap, Section 80111 proposes to increase the frequency of geothermal leases on federal land and requires replacement lease sales to be held when a lease sale is missed. Consistent with the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now (CLEAN) Act sponsored by Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID), these provisions will ensure developers have access to competitively bid parcels of land to deploy more geothermal energy resources. These provisions are especially timely as interest in geothermal development continues to grow, as evidenced by the recent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lease sale in Utah, which generated the most per-acre revenue of any previous geothermal lease sale on BLM public lands in recent history.

We support these provisions which provide the necessary first steps to reform the permitting system and unleash more American energy. ClearPath Action is ready to work with this Committee and other policymakers to advance these and additional policies that will achieve broad permitting reform, expand energy deployment, revitalize and advance U.S. manufacturing and strengthen U.S. supply chains.

We thank the Committee for its leadership and commitment to practical solutions that address the budgetary gap while also increasing energy and maintaining environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Harrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Jeremy Harrell
CEO
ClearPath Action