



Powering Strong Communities

December 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA), I am writing to express strong support for H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, and encourage all representatives to vote in favor of the legislation when it to the floor this week. Streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and establishing judicial review guidelines to support timely and efficient environmental reviews will enable public power utilities to build the infrastructure needed to meet growing electricity demand.

APPA is the national trade organization representing the nation's 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. Public power utilities are in every state except Hawaii. They collectively serve over 55 million people in 49 states and five U.S. territories. Public power utilities are load-serving entities, with the primary goal of providing their communities with safe, reliable electric service at the lowest reasonable costs, consistent with sound environmental stewardship. While public power utilities serve some of the nation's largest cities, nearly 1,600 of the 2,000 in operation serve rural communities.

We commend the House Natural Resources Committee, Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR), and Representative Jared Golden (D-ME), and their respective staff, for proposing NEPA reforms that would streamline the permitting process and improve efficiency across federal agencies and the judiciary. Lengthy and unpredictable permitting processes, including NEPA, make it difficult for public power utilities nationwide to make the necessary investments in generation, distribution, and transmission infrastructure to power their communities. A consistent, clear, and certain process is even more critical as demand for electricity rises due to data centers, manufacturing, and electrification.

APPA appreciates that the House of Representatives is addressing permitting reform priorities, including ensuring NEPA is a transparent and streamlined process for all federal agencies and stakeholders. We respectfully urge all representatives to vote for this legislation to ensure public power utilities can continue to provide reliable and affordable electricity to their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Desmarie M. Waterhouse".

Desmarie M. Waterhouse
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Communications & General Counsel

Cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Emmer, Majority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Katherine Clark, Minority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives