

House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 2, 2025

Re: CEA Letter of Support for House Natural Resources' 2025 Reconciliation Package Provisions

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman,

Consumer Energy Alliance, the leading advocate of affordable and reliable energy for small businesses and families, submits this letter of support for the House Natural Resources Committee's reconciliation provisions. These provisions bolster critical onshore and offshore lease sales, expand domestic mineral development, streamline energy project permitting processes, and promote sustainable energy development on public lands. These efforts will boost U.S. energy security and provide reliable, affordable energy to consumers across the nation, while cutting regulatory red tape that has prevented the U.S. from delivering its domestic energy goals.

Founded in 2006, CEA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for a balanced energy policy and responsible resource access. CEA represents virtually every sector of the U.S. economy – the iron and steel industries, to truckers, airlines, farmers, labor organizations, restaurants, chemical manufacturers, small businesses, and families – that are concerned about U.S. energy policy, energy security, and long-term price and supply stability.

Provisions in the Natural Resources Committee's reconciliation text will alleviate regulatory and cost burdens on energy developers, providing positive trickle-down effects for energy consumers. As of this year, 59% of Americans could not afford a \$1,000 emergency expense¹ and one in three American households experience energy poverty,² or an inability to afford critical energy needs such as their utility and heating bills. High energy costs affect all Americans, especially low-income families; the provisions in this legislation will help alleviate these energy burdens while driving American energy innovation and expansion.

The offshore energy measures in the Committee's reconciliation text are an essential step to achieving these goals. By mandating lease sales in the Gulf of America and Cook Inlet in Alaska, the Committee has provided a consistent framework for domestic energy production while increasing federal revenue. Another improvement to offshore energy production is the efforts to enhance revenue-sharing under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). By raising the distribution cap for revenue sharing, communities along the Gulf will continue to receive essential funding for hurricane protection and coastal conservation.

The onshore energy reforms in this legislation are also essential for enhancing domestic energy security. Domestic oil and gas producers have faced inconsistent leasing schedules

¹ <https://www.bankrate.com/f/102997/x/1c82ee6b93/january-fsp-press-release-final.pdf>

² <https://mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/energy-poverty-hits-us-residents-more-south-and-southwest-study-finds#:~:text=One%20in%20three%20American%20households%20today%20experiences,other%20energy%20sources%20due%20to%20financial%20constraints.&text=It%20would%20also%20require%20a%20fourfold%20increase,the%20calculations%20of%20Knitte%20and%20his%20co%20authors>

and burdensome regulatory regimes, hindering essential growth and costing consumers who ultimately pay for delays and the added costs of unpredictability. The onshore energy measures address these challenges by reinstating quarterly lease sales across important energy-producing states and reissuing the oil and gas leasing program in Alaska, while lowering royalty rates and other cost burdens applied by the previous administration. The Committee's text also lessens regulatory delays by requiring that leases be offered within 18 months of receiving an expression of interest. Furthermore, changes to judicial reviews under NEPA will ensure that projects are not hamstrung by years-long litigatory tactics employed by adversarial non-governmental organizations.

These reconciliation provisions streamline the burdensome permitting process to allow for timely project approvals while upholding environmental standards. All together, these reforms are projected to generate billions in new federal revenue, support thousands of energy jobs, and increase domestic energy supply. Most importantly, they will help boost energy security and affordability for American consumers.

CEA applauds the Natural Resources Committee for advancing this reconciliation package that benefits consumers and businesses across the nation. These energy reforms are essential to meeting the needs of American communities that depend on access to reliable and affordable energy.

Sincerely,



Kaitlin Hammons
Vice President

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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