

December 15, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Scalise,

We, the undersigned, write to you today to urge prompt consideration and passage of H.R. 4776, the “Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act.” As organizations devoted to free markets, American energy dominance, and a strong national defense, we believe the current Federal permitting process governed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is insufficient to meet the needs of our country. Reindustrialization, American leadership in artificial intelligence, supply chain security, and other goals prioritized by President Trump require more energy infrastructure to be built at a much faster pace. The reforms proposed by the SPEED Act are imperative to accelerate deployment of critical energy investments.

Fundamentally, NEPA is an impediment to pragmatic energy policy solutions that advance our economic competitiveness and national security. The average environmental impact statement (EIS) required by NEPA takes nearly four years to complete.^I Once approved, 50% and 31% of pipeline and transmission projects, respectively, were subject to litigation. NEPA-related legal challenges can delay projects by years and increase costs by billions, assuming the projects proceed.^{II} Today, critical energy projects valued at an estimated \$1.5 trillion are suspended in the permitting process.^{III} America must expand our energy resources, increase the capacity of existing ones, and build new pipelines and grid connections quickly to increase energy reliability and affordability.

Beyond the grid and pipeline network, the U.S. industrial base remains over 70% reliant on the People's Republic of China for critical minerals and rare earth elements.^{IV} Permitting reform will determine whether U.S. mineral producers can compete globally and confront Chinese mineral dominance. The United States requires between seven and ten years to permit a mine and 29 years to begin mining a newly discovered resource. Zambia is the only country for which opening a new mine takes longer. Mining investment in Australia and Canada exceeds U.S. investment by 57% and 81%, respectively, because mining projects in these countries offer

^I [Environmental Impact Statement Timelines \(2010-2024\)](#). Council on Environmental Quality. Executive Office of the President. January 13, 2025.

^{II} “Unlocking America’s Infrastructure Part 2: Removing NEPA’s Obstacles.” Richard R. Geddes and Joshua Rauh. American Enterprise Institute. January 2, 2025.

^{III} “Unlocking US federal permitting: A sustainable growth imperative.” Bob Sternfels, Adi Kumar, Brodie Boland, Bobo Stankovikj, and Tim Carter. McKinsey & Company. July 28, 2025.

^{IV} Mineral Commodity Summaries 2025. U.S. Geological Survey. January 30, 2025.

greater permitting certainty for investors.^V Worse yet, unexpected delays in the permitting process alone reduce a typical mining project's value by more than 30% and harms the ability of U.S. mines to compete on a global market.^{VI} These delays and uncertainty are driven by current NEPA policy.

The SPEED Act would accomplish important reforms to NEPA that would increase the development of energy and mineral assets while promoting environmental conservation and community engagement. This bill protects the ability of constituents to engage in the permitting process while preventing lawfare, increases the efficiency of permitting agencies by promoting the use of less costly environmental assessments and categorical exclusions, and brings NEPA compliance closer to Congress' original intent, among other important reforms.

Each day that passes without NEPA reform is another day where delays harm American energy investments. Pipeline projects that would deliver reliable resources to fuel transportation and heat homes sit in legal jeopardy, grid investments to guarantee instantaneous access to affordable electricity remain sidelined, and critical mineral resources to aid America in reasserting control over foundational supply chains go untapped. As organizations that firmly believe in the important role these resources play in national security and economic competitiveness, we respectfully request expeditious passage of this bill by the House of Representatives.

Respectfully,

Avery Ash
SVP of Government Affairs
Securing America's Future Energy

Ryan Sistad
Executive Director
Better In Our Back Yard

Kristen Walker
Energy Policy Manager
American Consumer Institute

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

John Szoka
Chief Executive Officer
Conservative Energy Network

Heather Reams
President and CEO
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions

^V "United States Ranks Next to Last in Development Time for New Mines that Produce Critical Minerals for Energy Transition, S&P Global Finds." Jeff Marn and Kate Smith. S&P Global. July 18, 2024.

^{VI} Ibid.

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