

**Statement for the Record of
Congresswoman Celeste Maloy of Utah
H.R. 8784 the FREE Act**

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

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Washington, D.C.

Thank you, Chairman Comer, for your diligence and leadership on this truly landmark permitting reform bill. The FREE Act promises to transform federal agencies by reducing red tape, advancing innovation, and improving permitting processes. Federal permitting impacts American stakeholders including the minute processes that affect states, tribes, businesses, local governments, and communities every single day.

As someone who has helped Utahns navigate complex federal permitting, I can attest to the need for this reform. The FREE Act introduces "permit by rule," creating pre-set standards, expediting reviews, and shifting focus to enforcement. This approach prioritizes safety rules, simplifies applications, reduces arbitrary decisions, incentivizes compliance, and increases predictability.

Ultimately, the FREE Act empowers citizens, allowing businesses to thrive based on merit rather than bureaucratic discretion. By addressing the core issues of our current permitting system, this Act paves the way for a more efficient, fair, and prosperous economic environment for all Americans.



Celeste Maloy

Member of Congress