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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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April 21, 2025

Hon. James L. Connaughton
Chief Executive Officer
JLC Strategies, LLC
225 Coconut Palm Road
Indian River Shore, FL 32963

Dear Mr. Connaughton:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled “Maximizing Opportunities for Redeveloping Brownfields Sites: Assessing the Potential for New American Innovation.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Monday, May 5, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Calvin Huggins Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Morgan Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H." being small and the last name "Griffith" being larger and more prominent.

H. Morgan Griffith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith

1. Under your preclearance permitting proposal for brownfields, would a cursory endangered species habitat review, for species like the blue crawdad or the peaks of otter salamander, be a part of the preclearance?

The Honorable Nick Langworthy

Whether it's a new energy generation project, like advanced nuclear, or an energy load such as a manufacturing facility or data center, brownfield sites often already have transmission infrastructure in place.

1. Mr. Connaughton, given the existing transmission infrastructure on many brownfield sites, how can we better incentivize businesses—whether in energy generation, manufacturing, or data centers—to prioritize brownfield redevelopment to reduce delays in project timelines and take advantage of quicker interconnection to the grid?

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) prioritized Opportunity Zones, driving investment into distressed areas. Many brownfield sites fall within these zones and are ideal for high-power industries like AI infrastructure and high-performance computing. However, despite these advantages, permitting obstacles often delay or complicate projects, hindering their ability to fully realize the potential of brownfield redevelopment. This can have a toll of years and years of red tape just to get a project up off the ground.

2. Mr. Connaughton, given the significant delays caused by these permitting obstacles, especially in New York State, such as the lack of clarity on wetland jurisdiction following the Sackett vs EPA decision, what steps can be taken to streamline the permitting process for brownfield redevelopment projects? For example, you discuss developing a list of “pre-cleared projects” or critical infrastructure. Do you have any suggestions for Congress in directing the creation of this type of list or criteria?