



Bipartisan Policy Center

July 22, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

I am writing to express my gratitude to you and the House Natural Resources Committee for hosting an important hearing on *"Permitting Purgatory: Restoring Common Sense to NEPA Review,"* on July 22, 2025. The Bipartisan Policy Center has been actively working to find consensus on comprehensive federal permitting reform that will reduce energy costs, ensure energy reliability, reduce emissions, and improve the quality of life for all Americans. I am pleased that you want to work together to pass meaningful and bipartisan permitting reform that will help support the buildout of a diverse range of projects, especially U.S. energy projects that will ensure affordable, reliable, and secure energy.

Regulatory challenges to the development of energy infrastructure must be addressed to meet rising energy demands and achieve economic and clean energy objectives. We are encouraged that both Republicans and Democrats want to take action to reform, modernize, and expedite the permitting processes to eliminate unnecessary delays that are holding back the development of needed infrastructure projects across the nation. Growth in electric power demand due to new data centers, increased manufacturing and industrial activity, increasing home electrification, and other factors are already straining power grids. At the same time, demand is increasing and is forecast to continue increasing faster than new energy projects are being developed. Tackling these challenges requires America to build again. BPC stands ready to help cultivate the bipartisan consensus needed to reform the complex, lengthy, overly burdensome, and overly expensive permitting process.

To assist in your work, BPC would like to submit to the official record a report titled [*Finding the Goldilocks Zone for Permitting Reform*](#). The report is based on [six previous issue briefs](#), which were informed by a series of stakeholder roundtables aimed at exploring legislative options for a more efficient permitting system. The final report ranks each of the previously discussed policy options across two dimensions: **Effectiveness** and **Controversy**. The purpose of the roundtable series was to bring together a diverse set of permitting experts to evaluate different options for permitting, explore the nuances of policy options, discuss the effectiveness of different policies, and consider the potential political controversies each option might elicit. These discussions encouraged further conversations between stakeholders and policymakers in the energy permitting space.

We look forward to working with you as you explore options that can improve the nation's permitting system for energy infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Xan Fishman
Vice President, BPC Energy Program