



July 21, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), we are grateful for the opportunity to provide our perspective to the House Natural Resources Committee for their hearing, "Permitting Purgatory: Restoring Common Sense to NEPA Reviews." CRES appreciates the continued leadership of the Committee for its diligent efforts to streamline federal permitting processes.

CRES is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting responsible, conservative solutions to address our nation's energy, economic and environmental security while ensuring America retains its global competitive edge. CRES advocates for the advancement and deployment of cutting-edge clean energy technologies with the goal of both reducing emissions while ensuring reliable and affordable energy.

Truly comprehensive permitting reform will increase American competitiveness, recapture American manufacturing dominance and reduce our reliance on adversarial nations –while maintaining environmental stewardship. It is undeniable that outdated processes that keep projects in limbo for years, like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),¹ are sabotaging our nation's ability to meet the energy and resource demands of tomorrow.²

Last September, CRES was proud to testify in support of Chairman Westerman's discussion draft,³ which was a meaningful step in updating NEPA. The discussion draft sought to accelerate permitting processes without sacrificing environmental protections. It proposed reforms to NEPA that recognize today's realities and would reduce frivolous litigation. During our testimony, CRES highlighted the need for bipartisan permitting reform as it remains critical for advancing innovative technologies and unlocking American resources necessary to meet growing demand.⁴

Today, CRES is encouraged as permitting reform momentum continues in the 119th Congress. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle for their

¹ Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), "Environmental Impact Statement Timelines (2010-2024)", January 13, 2025, [Environmental Impact Statement Timelines \(2010-2024\)](#)

² U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), "After more than a decade of little change, U.S. electricity consumption is rising again", May 13, 2025, <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=65264>

³ House Natural Resources, Discussion Draft of H.R. _____, September 11, 2024, [discussion draft of h.r. _____.pdf.pdf](#).

⁴ CRES Forum, "Testimony of CRES President Heather Reams", September 11, 2024, [2024.09.11-House-Natural-Resources-Committee-Legislative-Hearing-CRES-President-Heather-Reams-Testimony.pdf](#).

tireless, good-faith negotiations to reach bipartisan alignment. While CRES acknowledges and appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Trump Administration to accelerate federal permitting processes, some reforms will need to be codified. Through continued collaboration, Congress can work to craft a robust permitting reform package that aligns with our many shared goals.

Going forward, CRES remains hopeful that the Committee will continue to receive positive and productive feedback from stakeholders to further refine critical policy decisions, including those surrounding NEPA. With continued dialogue—evidenced by this hearing—we see momentum that can lead to the passage of meaningful, comprehensive permitting reform legislation.

Thank you for your continued leadership on permitting reform and for the opportunity to share our perspective on the importance of advancing these commonsense changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Reams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heather" being more prominent than the last name "Reams".

Heather Reams
CRES President and CEO