

July 21, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Chairman Westerman:

I write on behalf of Turn Forward, a bipartisan, national offshore wind advocacy nonprofit organization, to thank you and the House Natural Resources Committee for your unflagging attention to the urgent need for permitting reform. I appreciate the opportunity to offer our views prior to this week's hearing.

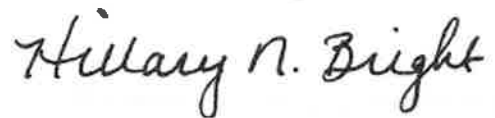
Turn Forward shares your commitment to ensuring that the United States meets its ever-growing energy needs and recognizes the importance of modernizing the nation's permitting laws to do so. For too long, projects in the public interest – including a wide variety of linear infrastructure, such as transmission lines, oil and gas projects, and renewable energy – have been delayed, made more costly, or have been blocked altogether due to overly burdensome and duplicative permitting requirements and the ever-present threat of litigation. Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have contributed to these challenges.

Congress can significantly improve the nation's permitting regime by providing greater certainty to energy developers by: clarifying the role of federal agencies in permitting; establishing enforceable and efficient NEPA timelines, scopes, and judicial review processes; fostering predictability across all forms of offshore energy leasing and permitting; and ensuring revenues generated by federal leasing programs provide the public with a fair return on development of outer continental shelf resources and are leveraged to benefit coastal states.

Meeting our nation's surging electricity demand is a prerequisite to achieving many of the Administration's top priorities – from promoting economic growth to maintaining a competitive edge in AI. In fact, a congressionally mandated analysis released last year found that electricity consumption by U.S. data centers is rising at an accelerating rate. Between 2014 and 2018, demand grew by about 7%. From 2018 to 2023, it rose 18%, and by 2028, it could grow another 27%, compared to 2023 levels. This increase does not account for other escalating energy demands, including the onshoring of energy intensive manufacturing. To meet these growing energy needs, it will be essential to leverage all available energy resources. Equally important are permitting laws and regulations that are predictable, transparent, and timely—critical factors for maintaining investor confidence in the U.S. market and providing certainty to American consumers who depend on a stable and reliable energy supply.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important effort. Turn Forward looks forward to supporting the Committee's work to advance legislative reforms that ensure predictable, transparent, and timely development of much needed energy generation and transmission infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hillary N. Bright". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Hillary N. Bright
Executive Director
Turn Forward

CC: The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member