



American Cement Association
200 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 200
Washington D.C., 20001
202.408.9494
www.cement.org

August 26, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
House Natural Resources Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
House Natural Resources Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of the American Cement Association (ACA), I am writing to express our support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. We appreciate the opportunity to share our views on this legislation to assist infrastructure construction, energy production & transmission, and economic growth. Sustainability and environmental stewardship are top priorities for America's cement manufacturers.

The American Cement Association - formerly the Portland Cement Association - is the leading voice for America's cement manufacturers. Founded in 1909, our association adopted its new name in May 2025 to reflect the industry's evolution beyond portland cement. Today, our members are pioneering the production of innovative cements and emissions-reduction technologies to expand domestic manufacturing capacity.

Cement, the primary ingredient in concrete, is essential to building and maintaining the nation's infrastructure – from highways and bridges to airports, mass transit systems, water facilities, and residential and commercial buildings. Our products enhance energy efficiency in buildings, improve fuel efficiency on roads, and contribute to the resilience of critical infrastructure. Cement and concrete manufacturing support over 600,000 American jobs and contribute more than \$100 billion to the U.S. Economy annually.

Since its initial passage by Congress in 1969, the United States has made significant improvements to air & water quality. While the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) helped bring about those early tremendous improvements to our environment in the 1970s and 1980s, the law has failed to keep up with ensuring our infrastructure keeps pace with economic growth. While the law was well-intentioned and effective for improving environmental outcomes across the country, we face new economic challenges that require it to be modernized by Congress.

Aside from necessary infrastructure investments, NEPA inhibits energy development and manufacturing innovation. The United States is fortunate to have access to a wide range of lower-carbon fuels like solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and natural gas. We are also fortunate to have locations to sequester carbon, but NEPA stands in the way of installing energy efficiency and carbon management technologies for manufacturers. With these resources, the United States has an advantage. The federal government must act rapidly if we are to meet our energy and innovation goals. Improving NEPA is an essential step towards our industry's goals.

ACA supports the SPEED Act to facilitate the improvements to America's infrastructure essential to commerce. By modernizing the NEPA review process, clarifying when NEPA is triggered, and establishing judicial review limits, the SPEED Act will result in quicker infrastructure construction and better use of scarce taxpayer dollars. Not only do ACA members provide foundational building materials for our nation's infrastructure, but they also depend on energy production and carbon management technologies that may require NEPA review for manufacturing. For these reasons, the SPEED Act is a win-win for the cement industry, and the ACA is proud to support it.

We look forward to working with the Committee on moving this legislation as it considers its next steps. If you have any further questions, please contact me at soneill@cement.org or 202.719.1974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Neill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and last name "O'Neill" clearly distinguishable.

Sean O'Neill
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Portland Cement Association