



July 30, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden  
1107 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Representative Golden:

The American Clean Power Association (ACP) writes in support of the *Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act)*. We appreciate your bipartisan work to reform and improve the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which is critical for more effectively and efficiently permitting U.S. energy infrastructure and ensuring reliable and affordable energy for all Americans.

Energy infrastructure, including clean energy generation and transmission, needs more timely, predictable, and reasonable federal environmental review and permitting processes. Improving the efficiency of these processes is necessary to achieve American energy dominance and allow the nation to timely meet rising energy demand while maintaining affordable energy prices for American families and businesses.

The U.S. is facing an electricity demand surge of 30-50 percent by 2040<sup>1</sup> – a staggering increase driven mainly by the AI/data center boom and manufacturing growth. The existing antiquated and balkanized power system is already struggling to keep up. Maintaining grid reliability and meeting this dramatic growth in demand will require every megawatt possible from all sources of electricity.

The combination of rising demand and aging infrastructure is also driving up electricity prices for both residential and commercial customers. In fact, ICF International estimates that the amount that utilities pay for electricity could increase by 19 percent by 2028. Since 2022, U.S. *residential* electricity prices have already risen 13 percent on average, outpacing inflation, according to the Energy Information

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. *National Power Demand Study* from S&P Global Insights finds electricity demand growth will rise 35-50% between 2024 and 2040. The study was commissioned by the Alliance to Save Energy, American Clean Power Association (ACP), American Petroleum Institute (API), Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The study finds that an additional (net) 730-765 gigawatts (GW) of renewables, 160-175 GW of storage, 60-100 GW of gas, and 10-25 GW of nuclear and geothermal will be needed by 2040 to maintain grid reliability, with 8% of the nation's energy demand being met through expected energy efficiency savings over 2024 levels of savings.

Administration (EIA).<sup>2</sup> Americans that rely on affordable power will be forced to pay even more on their monthly bills and manufacturers and small businesses will be squeezed.

As wind, solar, and battery energy storage dominate the capacity seeking connection to the grid and are typically the most cost-effective option for power generation – along with traditional resources – they are crucial to meet this demand growth, keep prices low for consumers, and fully achieve American energy dominance.

Reforms to NEPA, proposed by the *SPEED Act*, will help us meet these energy challenges by providing a streamlined process and greater legal certainty, while still ensuring environmental protections. Specifically, the *SPEED Act* would create more timely, certain, and unified federal agency reviews with proper limits on the scope of review; ensure an applicant-driven approach; provide common-sense judicial review limitations on legal challenges; and clarify the definition of “Major Federal Action” so NEPA is not triggered in certain instances in which the Federal government lacks complete control over an action.

As Congress continues its work on comprehensive permitting reform, ACP looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee to advance the *SPEED Act* – and across all relevant committees of jurisdiction to advance reforms that will bolster our nation’s transmission grid, which is key to achieving a true comprehensive permitting package. Permitting for all forms of energy infrastructure should be accelerated – not obstructed.

Again, thank you for your work on this important legislation. Comprehensive permitting reform will help us build the needed generation capacity – regardless of technology type – to meet skyrocketing demand and more cost-effectively move that power to where it is needed.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Macchiarola

Chief Advocacy Officer

American Clean Power Association

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<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=65284>.