



July 30, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden
U.S. House of Representatives
1107 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Westerman and Golden:

The American Public Power Association (APPA) appreciates your efforts to review and refine permitting procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through the recently introduced H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. Streamlining the NEPA process and establishing clear guardrails to support timely and efficient reviews will enable public power utilities to build the infrastructure necessary to meet growing electricity demand.

APPA is the national trade organization representing the nation's 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. Public power utilities are in every state except Hawaii. They collectively serve over 55 million people in 49 states and five U.S. territories. Public power utilities are load-serving entities, with the primary goal of providing their communities with safe, reliable electric service at the lowest reasonable costs, consistent with good environmental stewardship. While public power utilities serve some of the nation's largest cities, nearly 1,600 of the 2,000 in operation serve rural communities.

We commend you for proposing reforms to NEPA that would streamline the permitting process and improve efficiency across federal agencies and the judiciary. Lengthy and unpredictable permitting processes, including NEPA, make it more difficult for public power utilities across the country to make necessary investments in the generation, distribution, and transmission infrastructure needed to power their communities. A consistent, clear, and certain process is even more critical as demand for electricity rises due to data centers, manufacturing, and electrification.

APPA welcomes continued dialogue on NEPA and other federal policies that impact public power utilities and the broader electric utility sector. We look forward to working with you to advance solutions that support reliable and affordable power for communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Desmarie M. Waterhouse", followed by a long horizontal line.

Desmarie M. Waterhouse
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Communications & General Counsel