



# Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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September 10, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1717 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RE: Support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act of 2025**

Dear Chairman Westerman and Representative Golden,

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 forest management and logging small businesses represented by Associated Oregon Loggers, we write in strong support of the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act of 2025.

Oregon's forest operators and small businesses rely on clear, timely, and predictable federal permitting processes to sustainably manage forests, protect communities from wildfire, and support local economies. However, the current implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) often creates unnecessary delays, duplicative reviews, and costly litigation.

The SPEED Act provides commonsense updates that restore NEPA's original purpose as a procedural framework. We especially support the bill's efforts to:

- Clarify the scope of federal reviews and eliminate speculative, indirect, or duplicative analyses;
- Reinforce the use of programmatic environmental documents and existing state analysis;
- Limit judicial delays and provide sideboards for litigation that stalls essential projects;
- Restore balance between environmental review and rural economic progress.

Associated Oregon Loggers believes this legislation is a long-overdue modernization. Without these reforms, forest contractors face unacceptable uncertainty and costs. These inefficiencies have already contributed to mill closures and forest treatment backlogs in Oregon, undermining both economic resilience and ecological health.

We urge Congress to advance the SPEED Act without delay. Thank you for your leadership on this issue of critical importance to rural communities, public safety, and America's forests.

Sincerely,

**Amanda Sullivan-Astor, CF**  
Forest Policy Manager  
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*"A Trusted Partner for Oregon's Forest Operators"*