

Karl S. Sporleder, Chairman
Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner
James L. Chamberlain, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

August 12, 2025

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

RE: Support for H.R. 4776 - Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act

Dear Chairman Westerman,

We write in support of H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development ("SPEED") Act, which will modernize the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and improve the efficiency of the environmental review process.

Like many of our fellow counties, Huerfano County is responsible for the maintenance, upkeep, and improvement of many critical infrastructure, from roads and bridges to water and sewer systems, to an airport. We are also often called upon to lead infrastructure projects that are tied to economic development initiatives. Many of our infrastructure projects are grant funded and the length of the review process regularly puts these projects at risk as prices shift over time.

The SPEED Act includes a number of key reforms that increase predictability of the process and shorten timelines, these include:

- Providing equivalency for other state and federal laws that meet the same requirements, preventing duplicative reviews
- Allowing agencies to share legislative categorical exclusions; and
- Reducing the number of projects that require NEPA review by removing the ability for federal funding and grants to trigger NEPA review and providing that projects that have already been reviewed under NEPA do not need to go through NEPA again

This bipartisan legislation will help us advance important projects while continuing to protect the clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife, and natural spaces that define Huerfano County. We urge the Committee to support the SPEED Act, and continue to engage with states and counties on common sense permitting reform.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Karl S. Sporleder, Chairman

Signed by:

Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner

Signed by:

James L. Chamberlain, Commissioner

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