



Independent Women's Voice Supports the Bipartisan Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act

July 28, 2025

United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Bruce Westerman,
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20215

Dear Chairman Westerman,

Thank you for introducing the bipartisan **“Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED)” Act of 2025** with your colleague, Jared Golden (D-ME). Independent Women fights for women and their loved ones by effectively expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well-intended, but actually enhance people's freedom, opportunities, and well-being.

The SPEED Act of 2025 would expedite the approval of new energy, infrastructure, and forest management projects. Red tape, overregulation, and frivolous environmentalist lawsuits have doomed essential projects to **seven to ten years** of environmental review—even before new projects are constructed.

The existing U.S. permitting process is outdated. Environmental impact statements run for thousands of pages and average **4.5 years** to complete. Following the *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado* decision, federal agencies overseeing project approval should only **consider** direct environmental impacts—not indirect factors like environmental justice or climate change.

Federal agencies study the environmental impacts of projects that require federal permits. This is already applicable to conventional and renewable energy projects; construction of roads, transmission lines, and pipelines; and manufacturing facilities and data centers. Modernizing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will **strengthen**, not undermine, the environmental review process.

Under an improved NEPA review process, the federal government will approve energy projects, including new natural gas, nuclear, and geothermal plants, which will lead to fewer emissions and cut our dependence on foreign nations. Natural gas

is a **clean-burning fuel** that comprises most electricity generation in the U.S. today. Nuclear power plants produce **near-zero** carbon emissions on a square mile of land, while geothermal—using fracking technology—produces **one-sixth** of carbon emissions compared to natural gas plants.

For all these reasons, we urge the U.S. House of Representatives to work toward the swift passage of this bill. Independent Women's Voice thanks Representatives Westerman and Golden for their leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabriella Hoffman". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Gabriella Hoffman
Director, Center for Energy and Conservation
Independent Women's Voice