

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, House Natural Resources  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0404



**Re: NHEC Strongly Supports the SPEED Act**

July 28, 2025

Dear Chairman Westerman,

On behalf of the National Hispanic Energy Council (NHEC), we are writing in support of the Standardized Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act). This legislation takes the necessary steps to streamline the National Energy Policy Act (NEPA) process, which in turn will help reduce the energy burden on Hispanic families.

Founded in 2022, the National Hispanic Energy Council is built on the principle of fair and equitable energy for all Americans, driven by the urgent need to reduce the 24% higher energy costs Hispanic families pay compared to the median American family. Drawing on expertise from across the economy and Hispanic community, NHEC exists to fill a void in advocacy: a voice for energy policies that help Hispanic families and businesses. Our mission is inclusive because our advocacy supports the need for all Americans to have equitable access to affordable, reliable energy from all sources.

NHEC supports all-of-the-above energy policies that promote affordability and reliability for the most vulnerable populations. We believe that smart energy policy can lead to energy equity for Hispanic families throughout the nation.

While the intention during the passage of NEPA was to establish important environmental safeguards for federal projects, the 50-year-old permitting process needs to be modernized. The current permitting process faces significant delays and project uncertainty due to lengthy paperwork and excessive litigation. Agencies often conduct duplicative reviews, wasting resources and prolonging timelines. Delayed investment leads to higher energy bills and takes away energy options. Hispanic families, who face a higher energy burden, feel the effects of delayed or lost energy infrastructure investment.

The SPEED Act proposes essential reforms to streamline the NEPA process by clarifying language to recognize state and federal equivalency, preventing redundant environmental reviews. It also speeds up timelines by limiting comments to agencies' areas of focus and prioritizes pertinent information. By also reducing excessive litigation and modernizing environmental reviews, the SPEED Act promotes quicker, more predictable permitting timelines to meet today's energy demands.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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These reforms offer real benefits to Hispanic households and businesses. The SPEED Act's reforms to NEPA are an important step toward advancing delayed energy projects and easing the burden on Hispanic families, who face disproportionately high energy costs. Faster project timelines will support a more reliable energy grid and lower energy costs by increasing production and reducing delays.

We urge the House Natural Resources Committee and Congress to advance the SPEED Act to bring necessary permitting reform.

Sincerely,

Julio Fuentes

Chairman of NHEC

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