



Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer  
MAYOR

# City of Virginia Beach

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August 28, 2025

## **Committee on Natural Resources**

U.S. House of Representatives

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

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### **Subject: Support for the SPEED Act – Enabling Critical Infrastructure for Public Safety and Resilience**

Dear Chairman Westerman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Virginia Beach, we write to express our strong support for the SPEED Act (Simplifying Projects to Enable Economic Development) and to urge the Committee on Natural Resources to advance this important legislation to reform and modernize the federal permitting process.

Our city provides a clear example of why such reform is urgently needed. Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-B, a long-planned transportation corridor in Virginia Beach, has faced years of delay due to extended federal permitting timelines and environmental review processes, despite robust support at the local and state levels. This delay has prevented the construction of a vital roadway that serves as a hurricane evacuation route, a congestion reliever, and a lifeline for emergency response.

This project is not merely a matter of transportation convenience—it is a public safety imperative. Our coastal location makes us particularly vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes. Without this critical link in our transportation network, thousands of residents are left without sufficient evacuation options during emergencies, and emergency services are impeded in their ability to respond quickly and efficiently.

The environmental review process must be thorough, but it must also be efficient and predictable. In the case of Nimmo Parkway VII-B, we have encountered repeated delays that have increased project costs, prolonged public risk, and diminished community confidence in the permitting system. The SPEED Act addresses these concerns by creating a more streamlined, coordinated process for infrastructure projects that have already been subjected to significant local and regional planning and environmental evaluation.

Our City is committed to responsible, environmentally sensitive development. We believe the SPEED Act strikes an appropriate balance between environmental stewardship and the need to expedite essential infrastructure improvements. It preserves the integrity of environmental protections while removing unnecessary bureaucratic barriers that too often delay or derail projects that serve the public good.

We respectfully urge you to support and advance the SPEED Act. Doing so will directly benefit communities like ours and ensure that critical infrastructure projects—especially those that protect lives—are not trapped in years of unnecessary delay.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Dyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bobby" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dyer".

Robert "Bobby" Dyer

Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach

**On behalf of the Virginia Beach City Council**