



September 2, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Golden:

I am writing on behalf of the 3,000 specialty construction contracting employers of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 4776, the "Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act." This important bipartisan legislation will help further clarify agencies' procedural requirements for project reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), balancing the mutual goals of maintaining environmental protections and spurring new investments in domestic infrastructure and energy development.

MCAA members deliver top-quality, high-tech services on mechanical system, plumbing, piping, HVAC, and refrigerant system projects for public and private sector clients building all manner of infrastructure and energy projects, including data centers, commercial buildings, pharmaceutical facilities, nuclear plants, and other energy facilities. We know the importance of ensuring that projects are properly completed on time and on budget, and MCAA members add value by using their project management expertise to ensure client projects get the right staff and materials. But the start date of projects is outside of our control and in far too many instances, we are seeing projects delayed years or cancelled outright due to the byzantine NEPA environmental review process that entails multiple, redundant administrative and legal reviews to break ground on a project. These delays in new project starts impact our nation's ability to realize energy independence, to deploy new technologies, and to reshore manufacturing. They also harm MCAA members who see projects disappear and capital evaporate as the environmental review process extends beyond the planned timeline of owners and investors.

In recent years, there has been some streamlining of NEPA processes and some acceleration of reviews for critical infrastructure projects because of the *Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023* and the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Seven County Infrastructure*. As you correctly noted, however, additional congressional action is necessary if we are to achieve comprehensive and permanent solutions to modernize environmental review requirements to account for 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies, and strike a better balance between protecting America's natural resources and fostering economic growth and technological advancement. That is why MCAA is proud to support the SPEED Act. This legislation will streamline NEPA reviews, return the law to its intended purpose as



a procedural statute setting parameters for assessing environmental impacts of all major federal actions, and establish limitations on judicial review of NEPA claims.

On behalf of the membership of MCAA, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We stand ready to work with you to see it swiftly enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James B. Gaffney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Gaffney  
Chairman  
MCAA Government Affairs Committee