

September 8, 2025

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

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), I write to express strong support for H.R. 4503, the *ePERMIT Act*, and H.R. 4776, the *SPEED Act* up before the Committee's consideration on September 10, 2025.

MRES is a not-for-profit, joint-action agency that supplies wholesale electricity and energy services to 61 member municipalities in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Our member municipal electric utilities own and operate their own electric systems, and they rely on MRES to provide reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible power. Central to this mission is a regulatory process that is efficient, transparent, and predictable.

Unfortunately, the current federal permitting system can often be slow, duplicative, and overly burdensome. This uncertainty creates unnecessary costs and delays for communities we serve. The *ePERMIT Act* would address these challenges by directing federal agencies to modernize and digitize the permitting process. Moving to a standardized, online system would enhance transparency, improve coordination among agencies, and reduce costly delays. The *SPEED Act* would streamline the permitting process by establishing clearer deadlines, requiring greater coordination among agencies, and strengthening judicial standards to limit the scope of the court. These changes would help ensure that needed energy infrastructure projects can move forward in a timely and responsible way.

For our member communities, this means better reliability, greater certainty in planning, and lower costs for the families and businesses who depend on affordable electricity every day. We applaud Congressman Johnson for his leadership on this important legislation and urge the Committee to advance H.R. 4503 and H.R. 4776.



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Thank you for your consideration of our views and for your ongoing work to ensure the nation's energy future is reliable, affordable, and sustainable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Schull".

Matthew Schull
Chief Executive Officer
Missouri River Energy Services