



September 9, 2025

The Honorable Mike Ezell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act

Dear Representative Ezell:

On behalf of the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District (SMPDD), a regional economic development organization committed to fostering sustainable economic growth, job creation, and increased investment in South Mississippi, I write to express our support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act.

One of the most consistent barriers to timely investment in our communities is the complex, costly, and often unpredictable permitting process faced by various entities receiving federal funding, including manufacturers, energy producers, infrastructure developers and agricultural borrowers. The bipartisan SPEED Act addresses this challenge head-on by promoting greater standardization, transparency, and accountability across permitting agencies. These reforms are essential to enhancing our region's economic competitiveness, reducing unnecessary delays, and ensuring that projects—particularly those with significant economic and workforce impacts—can move forward efficiently without compromising environmental or community standards.

The legislation's focus on establishing clear timelines, streamlining inter-agency coordination, and providing a more predictable permitting environment aligns directly with the needs of local governments, investors, and community stakeholders. By improving the overall permitting process, the SPEED Act supports both public and private sector initiatives that drive long-term economic resilience.

SMPDD has long supported actions that balance regulatory integrity with economic opportunity. The SPEED Act achieves that balance, offering practical solutions to support economic development while maintaining responsible oversight.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to South Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Leonard Bentz  
Executive Director