



MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES

903 Medical Arts Building • 324 West Superior Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218-722-5013 • Fax 218-722-2065 • www.minnesotaforests.com

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chair
Representative Jared Golden, Member
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Westerman and Committee Member Golden,

Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI) supports H.R. 4776 (Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act), as it proposes necessary reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Fear of litigation, judicial rulings and USDA Forest Service interpretations of NEPA have clouded its original intent, slowed the analysis process, and prevented needed forest management and restoration work. Without reforms we will continue to see wildfires raging in unmanaged forests and further forest products mill closures, just when we need them the most.

The SPEED Act will curtail frivolous lawsuits, expedite the environmental review process, and limit the abuse of the judicial system. The net outcome will be a dramatic increase in the pace and scale of forest management, wildfire mitigation, and infrastructure improvement projects necessary to improve forest health and resilience, reduce threats to human life and livelihoods, and support rural economies.

We urge Congress to act swiftly and decisively to clear roadblocks to active sustainable forest management and provide certainty in raw material supply that will incentivize investment in the American forest products industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Horton', is written over a light blue circular background.

Rick Horton
Executive Vice President