



September 18, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of ConservAmerica, a non-profit organization dedicated to market-based, common sense solutions to our nation's energy, environmental, and conservation challenges, I write in support of H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act.

America has made great strides in expanding energy production and also protecting public health and the environment. Yet, many of the laws that helped pave the way for these successes were adopted fifty years ago and need to be modernized to adapt to the scale and pace of today's challenges. As it stands now, the inefficiencies and uncertainties embedded within the permitting process are limiting our country's ability to achieve energy dominance and thwarting economic development.

Given the scale and breadth of the challenges we face, it is simply unacceptable that the government approval processes for these projects are the single biggest obstacle to action; meanwhile, the problems these projects are intended to solve get worse, and the direct and indirect financial costs of inaction compound. America is prepared to meet today's environment, energy, and infrastructure challenges. But these are problems that we must build our way out of, and we need to act now.

The SPEED Act addresses many of the most critical problems with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We would especially highlight the following provisions: clarifying that NEPA is procedural and creates no new substantive mandates; focusing reviews on proximate, project level effects rather than speculative upstream or downstream impacts; establishing 150 day statute of limitations and expedited court timelines; remanding only remedies with a 180 day correction schedule so agencies can fix process errors without unnecessary project stoppages; extending the durability of programmatic NEPA documents to 10 years to encourage efficient, landscape scale planning; allowing agencies to adopt existing categorical exclusions, including

those enacted by Congress, to speed low impact work such as restoration and habitat projects; requiring applicant approval for deadline extensions and tightens the scope for cooperating agency comments to improve accountability while preserving meaningful public input; limiting midstream scientific additions after the notice of intent or application to avoid open ended delays while still considering timely comments.

These reforms support our goals to update outdated policies that discourage investment in energy and critical minerals development, encourage competitive markets and innovation, and manage America's lands and waters in a way that balances resource development, recreation, and conservation.

We appreciate the bipartisan work on this legislation and stand ready to assist as it moves forward. Thank you for your leadership in advancing practical, conservation minded permitting reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Solomon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Solomon
Director of Government Affairs