

**Committee on Natural Resources  
Legislative Hearing  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
September 10, 2025  
10:00 AM**

- **H.R. 573 (Rep. Yakym)**, “*Studying NEPA’s Impact on Projects Act*”
- **H.R. 4503 (Rep. Johnson of SD)**, “*ePermit Act*”
- **H.R. 4776 (Rep. Westerman)**, “*Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act*” or the “*SPEED Act*”

**Questions from Rep. Harriet Hageman** for Mr. Dominick A. Longobardi, Deputy Town Comptroller, Town of Hempstead, Hempstead, New York

1. Mr. Longobardi, how can the expertise and local knowledge of cooperating agencies shape project alternatives to comply with local authority and regulations and avoid later delays?

**Local knowledge and expertise are just as described. The public works professionals in these local jurisdictions are the ones most familiar with the local weather patterns, water table levels, traffic patterns, road usage studies, utility locations, etc. Specifics that are needed to complete a project successfully. These are some very simple examples as an illustration. By coordinating efforts with the cooperating agencies and maintaining open lines of communication, the individuals performing the work will run into fewer obstacles because they are making decisions with all the information. This will enable the project to be completed in a timelier, cost-effective manner. In addition, when problems arise, who is better able to provide the knowledge and resources needed to solve these issues than those who handle the specific locations every day. It is public works professionals who provide the expertise that resolves issues or helps projects to pivot, when necessary, to ensure successful completion while maintaining environmental quality. The provisions of the SPEED Act will provide strong support and streamlining to public works efforts in all jurisdictions associated with an infrastructure project required to comply with NEPA and its affiliated permitting process.**

a. Does the SPEED Act deny any engagement between agencies or project proponents and state and local agencies?

**No. In fact, it will have the opposite effect. The SPEED Act's provisions that allow a project to substitute federal NEPA for that of a functionally similar one in another state/local jurisdiction will minimize duplicative administrative burden of a project. This allows for more meaningful engagement because instead of holding tons of meetings in order to check boxes, we will be coordinating in a way that gets everyone on the same page without meeting burnout. This makes for more productive collaboration, which in turn enables projects to move smoothly, thus providing the services and timely project completion that will improve the quality of life of those the project is meant for.**