

November 5, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden  
1107 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Congressman Golden:

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) appreciates your leadership in introducing the Standardizing the Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, H.R. 4776 to streamline the federal permitting process for energy and infrastructure projects.

As you know, energy projects currently face several obstacles to deployment, including a lengthy federal process to receive approval for necessary building permits and a lack of coordination among agencies, in addition to other delays.

At the same time, the United States needs more energy. The Department of Energy states in its July 2025 report on grid stability<sup>1</sup> that there are significant risks to U.S. grid reliability from rising electricity demand – particularly driven by data centers and AI - and aging infrastructure, indicating a pressing need for additional generation. The report warns of a 100-fold increase in blackout hours by 2030 due to insufficient generation to meet growth demand. **Without action, the U.S. is putting its leadership in AI, manufacturing, and economic prosperity in jeopardy.** A durable bipartisan legislative solution is needed.

The BCSE wishes to express its support for the enactment of the SPEED Act, which addresses the National Environmental Policy Act and is under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee. The Council also encourages Congress to consider reforms to other statutes and reviews as well, including those under the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, historic preservation, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Defense, as well as measures to provide funding to states and local governments to build their technical tools and staff capacity needed in state permitting processes.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOE%20Final%20EO%20Report%20%28FINAL%20JULY%20%29.pdf>



BCSE looks forward to working with you to move forward with bipartisan, comprehensive permitting reform legislation. Please feel free to reach out to Ruth McCormick at [rmccormick@bcse.org](mailto:rmccormick@bcse.org) with any questions or to arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson  
President  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy

*About the BCSE*

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is a coalition of companies and trade associations that deploy clean energy and decarbonization solutions, with a sector focus on energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy. Established in 1992, members include investor-owned utilities, public power, independent power producers, project developers, technology providers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and energy market service companies, and more. The coalition's diverse business membership is united around the revitalization of the U.S. economy and the creation of a clean, secure, and reliable energy future in America.

BCSE collaborates frequently with its small business division, the Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN), which encompasses a network of more than 8,000 cleantech business and community leaders across all 50 states. Collectively, BCSE and CEBN mobilize the full breadth of the clean energy economy, from innovators and small businesses to industry leaders and the trade associations that represent them. On a national basis, these industries support more than 3 million U.S. jobs.