



DUCHESNE COUNTY COMMISSION

Greg Miles: Chairman, Tracy Killian: Member, Jeff Chugg: Member

P.O. Box 270

Duchesne, Utah 84021-0270

Phone (435) 738-1100

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

Date: November 19, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman,

On behalf of the Duchesne County Commission and the residents of Duchesne County, Utah, we are writing to express our strong support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, a critical piece of legislation co-sponsored by our congressional representative, Mike Kennedy. We believe the reforms outlined in the SPEED Act are essential to unlocking economic potential and improving the quality of life in Duchesne County and across the nation.

Duchesne County is a vibrant community that relies heavily on its public lands for both economic stability and recreational opportunities. However, the current burden of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related permitting processes has created significant, sometimes insurmountable, roadblocks to essential projects.

The SPEED Act addresses these challenges directly by introducing common-sense reforms to the NEPA process. Specifically, we are encouraged by provisions that aim to:

- 1. Impose Time Limits and Certainty:** Establishing clear deadlines for environmental reviews and related permitting decisions, which will minimize bureaucratic delays and provide project sponsors with the certainty necessary for investment and planning.
- 2. Streamline Reviews:** Clarifying that environmental documents only need to consider effects that are reasonably foreseeable and closely related to the proposed action, eliminating costly and time-consuming analysis of speculative or attenuated impacts.
- 3. Prevent Duplication:** Allowing the use of existing state, Tribal, or other federal environmental reviews where they meet NEPA standards, thereby preventing redundant analysis.
- 4. Strengthen Lead Agency Authority:** Empowering a single lead agency to coordinate and enforce the permitting schedule across all cooperating federal agencies.

Impact on Energy Dominance:

A significant portion of Duchesne County's economy is centered on the responsible production of oil and gas from our public lands. These resources are indispensable to our nation's energy security and independence. Current permitting processes often cause years of delays, throttling the pace of new development and inhibiting the maintenance and expansion of existing infrastructure. The SPEED Act's focus on streamlining reviews and establishing clear timelines is not merely regulatory relief; it is a direct investment in the infrastructure necessary to achieve national energy dominance and secure high-paying jobs for our residents.

Impact on Outdoor Recreation:

Our public lands also serve as the backdrop for world-class outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, hiking, OHV riding, and horseback riding. We have seen projects intended to enhance recreational access, improve trails, and upgrade critical infrastructure—such as boat ramps, campgrounds, or access roads—either stalled or canceled entirely due to the cumbersome, multi-year permitting process. By providing a more efficient, predictable framework for project review, the SPEED Act will allow us to move forward with projects that benefit tourists and local families alike, ensuring our natural assets remain accessible and enjoyable.

We strongly urge the Committee on Natural Resources to advance the SPEED Act swiftly. This legislation offers a balanced and effective solution that modernizes outdated environmental review laws, promotes responsible development, and ensures that Duchesne County—and all of America—can build the infrastructure necessary for a prosperous future.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Miller". The script is fluid and cursive.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Blum". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Killian". The script is cursive and clear.