

Robert MacGregor
Staff Director
House Subcommittee on Energy &
Mineral Resources

VIA EMAIL

Re: Support for the SPEED Act – EDP Renewables North America

Dear Robert:

First of all, thank you for the diligent work that Chairman Westerman, you and your committee colleagues are doing to advance permitting reform legislation via the SPEED Act. It is critical that we continue these efforts in order to be able to more efficiently and practically build necessary energy infrastructure in this country.

I am writing on behalf of EDP Renewables North America (EDPR NA), a market-leading developer, owner, and operator of utility-scale renewable energy projects across the United States. Our asset portfolio includes solar, battery energy storage systems (BESS) & onshore wind, with over 11,600 MW of operational capacity nationwide.

I'm writing to formally express our support for the SPEED Act (H.R. 4776) and to commend Rep. Westerman's leadership in advancing targeted reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Streamlining NEPA reviews is a critical step toward, amongst other pursuits, accelerating clean energy deployment and expanding & modernizing our Nation's energy infrastructure.

As the bill moves forward, we would encourage the consideration of a few additional provisions to ensure that this permitting reform vehicle is entirely comprehensive and effective:

- **Maintain technology neutrality** in permitting processes, ensuring that no one energy generation technology—whether solar, wind, storage, or more traditional technologies such as nuclear, coal, or natural gas—is disadvantaged by how permitting rules are structured, reviewed or applied.
- **Ensure that permitting reform encompasses all federal permits, approvals and authorizations**, not just those governed by NEPA. Many clean energy projects face delays due to other federal authorizations—such as those under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, or laws governing transportation or communications—and a broader, more encompassing approach would help streamline development timelines and lead to faster deployment of capital and completion of construction.
- **Clarify the scope of federal permitting authority**, particularly in response to the Department of the Interior's July 15, 2025 memorandum titled "*Departmental Review Procedures for Decisions, Actions, Consultations, and Other Undertakings Related to Wind and Solar Energy Facilities*," which centralizes permitting authority for 69 categories of routine activities, requiring final approval by the Secretary of the Interior—even for projects on private lands that

trigger federal consultations. A provision limiting the applicability of this memo only to federal lands and waters would reinforce the authority of local and state governments to manage development in their jurisdictions and would therefore provide much-needed certainty for developers.

Once again, thank you to you and Chairman Westerman for your leadership on this legislative vehicle. We would be grateful to serve as a stakeholder resource to your Office as this bill moves forward, especially ahead of a future mark-up. Furthermore, we would also be happy to provide more specific language as the legislative process advances.

Please let us know how we can be helpful. We look forward to keeping an open dialogue on this issue.

Sincerely,

Vice President, Government and Public Affairs
EDP Renewables North America, LLC