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November 19, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman:

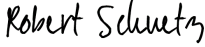
Ahead of this week's committee markup, I write to express Energy Northwest's support for the "Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act" and to applaud your leadership in advancing permitting reform legislation this Congress. The SPEED Act makes meaningful, bipartisan progress toward the comprehensive permitting reforms our nation urgently needs to move critical energy projects forward.

Energy Northwest is a Washington State joint operating agency serving the needs of public power systems throughout the Pacific Northwest. Our consortium of 29 public utility districts and municipal utilities allows not-for-profit utilities to take advantage of economies of scale and shared services that help them run their operations more efficiently and at lower cost, to the benefit of more than 1.5 million customers. Our portfolio includes wind, hydropower, and solar projects, as well as our flagship nuclear power resource and the third-largest electricity generator in the state: the 1,207 MW Columbia Generating Station.

Energy Northwest is proud to be developing the Cascade Advanced Energy Facility, one of the nation's first commercial advanced small modular reactor (SMR) projects, in partnership with Amazon and X-energy. As early movers in advanced nuclear technology, we are likely to face significant risk from outdated permitting systems that impose unnecessary hurdles, create avoidable delays, and drive up project costs—ultimately jeopardizing the successful deployment of this project. For example, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) can add many years to project timelines without producing any additional benefits for environmental protection, while exposing projects to needless protracted appeals. The SPEED Act directly tackles many of the challenges associated with an obsolete NEPA framework that too often leads to project delays and higher costs. The SPEED Act offers practical solutions to streamline and expedite the NEPA process, helping projects like ours move forward more efficiently and with greater regulatory certainty while maintaining environmental stewardship.

Thank you again for your commitment and hard work to advance the SPEED Act. Please do not hesitate to call on the Energy Northwest team if we can assist in any way as you work to move this important legislation forward.

Respectfully,

Signed by:

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R. E. Schuetz

Chief Executive Officer