



Hecla Nevada
4000 West Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV 89445

November 19, 2025

Congressman Bruce Westerman, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Submitted via email

Re: Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED Act)

Dear Chairman Westerman:

Hecla Nevada, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hecla Mining Company, is pleased to take this opportunity to provide our support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act.

Hecla Nevada consists of the Midas, Hollister, Fire Creek, and Polaris exploration and development properties in Nevada and the Polaris project was recently placed on the FAST-41 Transparency list. Founded in 1891, Hecla Mining Company (NYSE: HL) is the largest silver producer in the United States and Canada. In addition to operating mines in Alaska, Idaho, and Quebec, Canada, the Company is developing a mine in the Yukon, Canada, and owns a number of exploration and pre-development projects in world-class silver and gold mining districts throughout North America.

Predictability and efficiencies in permitting are key to Hecla unlocking the value of our Nevada exploration and development projects. We appreciate the efforts of Chair Westerman and the entire House Committee on Natural Resources to find ways to improve the permitting process and encourage development and production of critical minerals in the United States.

In particular, the SPEED Act provides many fixes to issues that have hampered mining opportunities in this country for decades. If passed, the SPEED Act will:

- Prevent duplicative reviews at both the state and federal levels.
- Prohibit agencies from interjecting political preferences into NEPA reviews by clarifying that alternatives included in environmental documents must meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

- Limit comments from cooperating agencies to their specific areas of jurisdiction and gives agencies discretion in considering new scientific research. This ensures that only pertinent information is considered, improving timelines, maintaining integrity, and bring more certainty to the process.
- Limit the scope of environmental review with specifics that environmental reviews for EAs and EISs must focus only on effects that are proximately caused by the project itself and may not include effects that are speculative or separate in place and time. This reform provides clarity to agencies and the public, reduces page counts so that stakeholders can meaningfully engage, and limits litigation.
- Establish timelines and sideboards for judicial review under NEPA, codifying key pieces of the Supreme Court's decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado* (Seven County).
- Establish sideboards so that plaintiffs have no more than 150 days to file a civil action against a final agency action. In addition, the judicial review provisions require plaintiffs to have standing, requiring that one must have submitted a comment on an action, and the comment must be "unique and substantive," and not a form letter. Plaintiffs must prove that they would suffer direct harm if their comments were not addressed. These provisions ensure that agencies have the opportunity to correct NEPA deficiencies before litigation and that claims are filed by those truly impacted by the underlying action and deserve special considerations.
- Require courts to resolve NEPA-related cases within 180 days and NEPA-related appeals within 60 days. This provision reduces the time spent in litigation, thereby reducing delays and cost overruns

If passed, these permitting improvements will not only unleash the American mineral industry, but all sectors of the American economy. Made in America begins with Mined in America and we urge the committee to pass the bill and move it to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

Thank you,



Michael Satre
Director of Governmental Affairs
Hecla Mining Company