

November 19, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chair
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member
Members of the Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

On behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, I respectfully urge you to support the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act). We were encouraged to see our own Representative Golden introduce this bipartisan legislation with Chair Westerman. We believe Congressman Golden is right on target for improving the federal regulatory bureaucracy and this bill is an important step toward restoring predictability and efficiency to a permitting system that has caused delays and even cancellations of critical projects.

The Maine State Chamber's mission is to advance a positive business climate and a strong state economy. That mission is increasingly challenged by a permitting framework that creates uncertainty for housing, energy infrastructure, utility upgrades, and other essential economic development projects. In Maine and across the country, projects face long review timelines, duplicative analyses, and unpredictable judicial outcomes, which escalate costs and suppress economic growth.

Current challenges in Maine's housing and transmission infrastructure illustrate the urgency for predictable permitting—and we know these challenges are not unique to Maine. Despite repeated state and federal regulatory approvals, opponents attempted to block and delay the NECEC electric transmission project by challenging an extensive Army Corps of Engineers analysis. These delays were costly and prevented the project from coming online when it could have provided critical relief to Maine and New England electric ratepayers.

Delays caused by shifting requirements, duplicative oversight, and judicial intervention create tangible economic consequences: employers struggle to attract a workforce due to limited housing, and ratepayers face higher costs from deferred grid modernization. The SPEED Act's 150-day judicial review window would provide greater certainty and help streamline progress on workforce and mixed-use housing projects supported by federal funding. It would also accelerate development of the infrastructure needed to power them. The Maine State Chamber has long advocated for commonsense, bipartisan permitting reforms that maintain public input and environmental safeguards while reducing unnecessary delays. We believe the SPEED Act accomplishes exactly that, providing developers, manufacturers, and communities with the tools they need to move job-creating projects from concept to reality.

We strongly support the SPEED Act's judicial review reforms, including the 150-day deadline for filing NEPA challenges and prohibiting vacatur or injunction as remedies. Establishing a clear and limited window for litigation—while preserving the right to bring claims—will provide businesses with the certainty to plan, invest, hire, and ultimately build the infrastructure needed to move America's economy forward.

For these reasons, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce urges the Committee to advance this legislation. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the Committee to ensure these reforms deliver the economic benefits our communities need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Woodcock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" and last name "Woodcock" clearly distinguishable.

Patrick Woodcock
President & CEO
Maine State Chamber of Commerce