



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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October 28, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 4776 the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act

Dear Chairman Westerman:

The Mesa County Board of Commissioners writes to express our firm support for H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. This legislation represents a long-overdue effort to restore accountability, common sense, and efficiency to the federal permitting process and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Mesa County's economy, workforce, and way of life are directly tied to responsible use and management of our natural resources. Nearly three-quarters of our county—approximately 1.6 million acres—is federally owned. Decisions made in Washington about how these lands are regulated have real and immediate consequences for our residents, local businesses, and community infrastructure.

For far too long, the NEPA process has been bogged down by bureaucratic red tape, excessive paperwork, and endless delays. Projects that could strengthen our energy independence, improve forest health, and upgrade rural infrastructure are routinely stalled or abandoned under the weight of federal review. What began as a tool for balanced environmental protection has devolved into a weapon for obstruction—inviting litigation, wasting taxpayer dollars, and discouraging private investment.

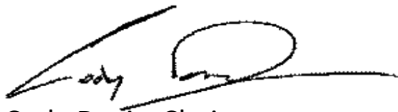
The SPEED Act offers a clear and responsible path forward. By defining the scope of NEPA more precisely, establishing firm review timelines, and reinforcing agency discretion in court challenges, this bill restores the law's original intent—to protect the environment while advancing needed development. Codifying judicial standards from the Supreme Court's Seven County Infrastructure Coalition decision will further limit frivolous lawsuits and bring long-overdue predictability to project planning.

Mesa County depends on the timely advancement of responsible energy, agriculture, water, and transportation projects to sustain our local economy and maintain public safety. We strongly

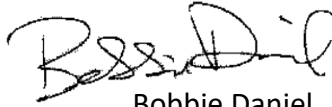
support your leadership in modernizing federal permitting, cutting unnecessary delays, and restoring the multiple-use principles that have guided public land management for decades.

Thank you for your continued efforts to strengthen America's permitting system and return decision-making authority to the local level, where it belongs. We urge swift passage of H.R. 4776.

Sincerely,



Cody Davis, Chair
Mesa County Board of Commissioners



Bobbie Daniel
Commissioner



JJ Fletcher
Commissioner

Cc: Todd Hollenbeck, Mesa County Administrator
Todd Starr, Mesa County Attorney
Mesa County Administration