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November 18, 2025

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

The Honorable Jared Golden
House of Representatives
1107 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Representative Golden,

On behalf of the Michigan Aggregates Association (MAA) and the companies that supply essential construction materials for infrastructure, housing, energy and public works across Michigan, we write to express strong support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. This legislation provides needed clarity to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and helps federal agencies balance environmental stewardship with timely economic development.

Access to aggregates is fundamental to nearly every construction project. Delays caused by inconsistent NEPA interpretations, duplicative processes and legal uncertainty hinder the ability of producers, contractors and public agencies to plan and complete projects. These delays do not stem from disagreement with environmental protections; they result from procedural ambiguity that slows the construction of roads, bridges, water systems, housing and energy infrastructure.

NEPA reviews often extend well beyond the timelines envisioned in federal guidance, making it difficult for project sponsors to budget, schedule and move forward with confidence. Smaller contractors and local governments are especially affected. The SPEED Act addresses these challenges by reaffirming that NEPA is a procedural statute and by improving coordination among agencies, so reviews remain focused and efficient.

We support the provisions allowing agencies to rely on environmental reviews conducted under other federal or state statutes that meet NEPA requirements, which will reduce redundant analyses and improve predictability. The bill also appropriately limits comments from cooperating agencies to matters within their jurisdiction and allows project proponents to grant extensions when needed. Authorizing agencies to use categorical exclusions established by other federal entities will further reduce unnecessary delays and costs. In addition, the updated judicial review standard provides clearer guidance and helps ensure that challenges do not derail projects without cause.

One of the most important reforms in the SPEED Act is clarifying that the receipt of federal funding alone should not trigger NEPA review. When agencies have no permitting or regulatory authority over a project, a full environmental review adds significant delay without increasing environmental

Mission Statement

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protection. NEPA should apply only when the federal government has an actual decision-making role, consistent with congressional intent. We also support codifying the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado*, which reinforces that agencies should evaluate the proposed action itself rather than speculative indirect effects.

The Michigan Aggregates Association strongly supports the SPEED Act and urges the Committee on Natural Resources and the full House of Representatives to advance this important legislation. Efficient and predictable permitting processes are essential for strengthening infrastructure, supporting economic growth and ensuring communities have timely access to the materials needed to build critical projects.

Thank you for your leadership on permitting reform.

Sincerely,



Douglas E. Needham, P.E.
Executive Director
Michigan Aggregates Association

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