



Nevada Association of Counties
304 South Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703
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November 19, 2025

Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: H.R. 4776 SPEED Act - Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act

Dear Representative Westerman:

The Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on H.R. 4776 - SPEED Act - Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act. NACO's membership includes all seventeen of Nevada's counties. The Federal government manages public lands in every county in Nevada – an acreage that totals approximately fifty-seven million acres, approximately 85% of Nevada's total land area, with some Nevada counties experiencing over 90% federal land ownership.

As such, county governments have been aware of actions on these public lands for decades and are acutely aware of the impacts of federal land management decisions and the NEPA process. In that process, Counties rely heavily on Cooperating Agency status to ensure consideration is given to local issues. We believe that local governments not only have applicable jurisdiction but also have some of the best practical knowledge of the areas that may be included in actions on these lands. Local elected officials have perspectives that those who do not live close to a proposed action would not be aware of. We believe the cooperating agency status creates better projects, protects resources, and provides for the community consensus needed ensure community harmony.

It is for these reasons that we are asking that language similar to the following paragraph be included in H.R. 4776:

(3) Cooperating agency

The lead agency may, with respect to a proposed agency action, designate any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency (including counties, boroughs, parishes, and other political subdivisions of a State) that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal to serve as a cooperating agency. A cooperating agency may, not later than a date specified in the schedule established by the lead agency, submit comments to the lead agency. Such comments from Federal cooperating agencies shall be limited to matters relating to the proposed agency action with respect to which such Federal cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law.



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We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and thank you for your careful consideration of NACO's comments regarding H.R. 4776.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vinson W. Guthreau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Vinson W. Guthreau
Executive Director