



November 19, 2025

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources,

On behalf of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce (SC Chamber), we respectfully urge you to advance the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act during Committee markup. We commend the bipartisan work behind this legislation, which will help ensure that businesses and communities in South Carolina and across the country can invest in transformative projects that strengthen the economy, enhance mobility, and advance America's global competitiveness.

South Carolina's economy is booming. New companies are choosing to locate here, existing companies are expanding here, and new residents are arriving every day. While we welcome this growth and celebrate our position as one of the fastest-growing states in the nation and the record levels of capital investment and job creation we are experiencing, we also recognize the challenges that come with rapid expansion. Outdated, unpredictable, and inefficient federal permitting processes increase those challenges by delaying critical infrastructure upgrades and slowing job-creating manufacturing investments. These delays increase project costs, threaten competitiveness, and hinder the ability of communities to meet the needs of a growing population.

The SC Chamber has long called for commonsense, bipartisan permitting reforms that improve how we make and build things in America. Businesses need clarity, consistent rules, and efficient processes to invest with confidence, while still ensuring meaningful public input and strong environmental protections.

The SPEED Act provides these necessary improvements. By aligning statute with Supreme Court precedent, creating permitting certainty between administrations, streamlining and strengthening judicial review, and clarifying that NEPA is a procedural statute whose requirements can be satisfied through other federal environmental permitting programs, this legislation offers clarity and guardrails that will help projects move forward responsibly. These reforms will make it easier and more cost-effective to expand broadband access, upgrade transportation networks, build innovative energy facilities to meet rising demand, modernize drinking water systems, and allow manufacturers to invest and grow across the Palmetto State—and across the country.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this legislation and urge the Committee to advance the SPEED Act.

Sincerely,

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

Will Frierson
Executive Vice President and Chief Government Affairs Officer
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce