



Board of County Commissioners

Dan Williams - Chairman
Erik Stone – Vice-Chairman
Bob Campbell - Commissioner

October 17, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Westerman,

The Teller County Board of Commissioners writes to voice our strong support for H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. This important legislation would bring long-overdue modernization to the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), ensuring that federal reviews are conducted in a timely, predictable, and transparent manner.

Local governments like ours see firsthand how protracted and uncertain permitting processes delay critical infrastructure, forest management, energy development, and community projects. NEPA was designed to safeguard the environment while allowing for thoughtful development. However, over time, the process has grown cumbersome—resulting in excessive documentation, escalating costs, and years-long delays that strain both taxpayers and local economies.

The SPEED Act provides a balanced solution. By clearly defining when NEPA applies, setting enforceable review deadlines, and improving coordination among agencies, the bill restores the efficiency and common sense originally intended by the law. The inclusion of judicial review standards based on the Supreme Court's Seven County Infrastructure Coalition decision will also reduce unnecessary litigation and give communities, investors, and project sponsors greater certainty when navigating the federal process.

Teller County depends on the timely advancement of responsible projects—whether related to forest health, transportation, water infrastructure, or mining—to sustain our local economy and protect our natural resources. We appreciate your leadership in promoting policies that bring clarity and accountability to federal decision-making, and we respectfully urge the Committee to advance H.R. 4776.

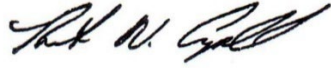
Thank you for your continued efforts to strengthen America's permitting system and support communities like ours that rely on effective governance and practical environmental stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Williams
Chairman



Erik Stone
Vice-Chairman



Robert Campbell
Commissioner

