



November 17, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman,

We are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act), which you introduced to bring long-overdue clarity, efficiency, and common sense to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process.

For far too long, NEPA has been weaponized to create endless delays, unnecessary litigation, and crippling uncertainty for American infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, and natural resource projects. The result has been higher costs, lost jobs, prolonged dependence on foreign supply chains, and missed opportunities to build the modern, resilient economy our country desperately needs.

The SPEED Act directly addresses these problems with targeted, responsible reforms that maintain environmental protections while restoring NEPA to its original intent as a procedural statute—not an open-ended tool for obstruction.

Among the bill's most important provisions are:

- Reaffirming that NEPA is purely procedural and does not mandate specific environmental outcomes or confer substantive rights beyond process.
- Narrowing the scope of review to effects that are proximately caused by the proposed action, eliminating speculative, attenuated, or cumulative impacts that have been used to inflate documents and delay projects for years.



- Preventing agencies from demanding new scientific research after an application is complete or a notice of intent is published, ending the practice of perpetual “moving goalposts.”
- Allowing reliance on high-quality state, tribal, or other federal reviews when they meet or exceed NEPA standards—promoting efficiency and respecting federalism.
- Extending the useful life of programmatic environmental documents from 5 to 10 years, reducing redundant paperwork.
- Significantly reforming judicial review by imposing reasonable statutes of limitations (150 days), requiring plaintiffs to have raised specific issues during the comment period, raising the bar for vacatur, and keeping permits in effect during limited remands—measures that will dramatically reduce abusive “sue-and-delay” tactics without eliminating legitimate oversight.

These reforms are not radical; they are reasonable, balanced, and urgently needed. Projects of all kinds—highways, transmission lines, mines, pipelines, renewable energy facilities, water infrastructure, and broadband deployment—have been stalled for a decade or more under the current broken system. The SPEED Act will cut through that red tape while still requiring agencies to take a hard look at genuine environmental consequences.

Passing the SPEED Act will unlock billions of dollars in private investment, create hundreds of thousands of good-paying American jobs, lower energy costs, strengthen our national security through domestic critical mineral and energy production, and help us build the infrastructure required for continued prosperity in the 21st century.

We urge you and your colleagues to move the SPEED Act forward as quickly as possible and enact it into law. Our country cannot afford more years of paralysis.

Founded in 2009, The Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) is a national trade association representing independent oil and natural gas producers across the United States. Our members are primarily small to mid-sized operators who form the backbone of American energy production.



Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or my organization can be of assistance as the bill advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry R. Simmons", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jerry R. Simmons  
President/CEO  
DEPA