



Sent via email

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Subject: WMC Strongly Supports the SPEED Act

Dear Chairman Westerman:

The Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) is proud to be listed as one of the roughly 180 companies and organizations supporting the *Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act* (the SPEED Act, H.R. 4776) to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). NEPA currently adds years of permitting and litigation that delay projects across all sectors of the U.S. economy. The diversity of entities on the supporters list attests to the widespread importance of the SPEED Act's NEPA reforms to reduce permitting timelines and NEPA litigation.

In its landmark May 2025 NEPA decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle Co.*, the Justices unanimously stated that years of litigation have "transformed NEPA from a modest procedural requirement into a blunt and haphazard tool employed by project opponents (who may not always be entirely motivated by concern for the environment) to shutdown new infrastructure and construction projects." H.R. 4776 would codify key elements of the Supreme Court's *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition* ruling and enact judicial reforms to reduce NEPA litigation.

We urge the Natural Resources Committee to advance this bill as quickly as possible so the full House can take the crucial step to reduce the NEPA delays and litigation that currently make securing federal permits for new mines, renewable and conventional energy projects, transmission lines, pipelines, roads, and other essential infrastructure difficult and risky. The broken NEPA process is a key reason why the U.S. is dangerously reliant on foreign minerals that are essential to our economy and national security because the current process cannot respond efficiently to the skyrocketing demand for minerals.

What was enacted as a procedural statute to consider the environmental effects of a federal action has become a hotbed of litigation as plaintiffs' attorneys routinely wage NEPA lawfare to delay and stop proposed projects. According to the [Breakthrough Institute](#), when an agency's NEPA decision is challenged, NEPA litigation adds approximately four years to a project's timeline. Plaintiffs' unsuccessful track record of losing roughly 80 percent of their NEPA lawsuits underscores the meritless and disruptive nature of these cases.

The SPEED Act is needed to remove NEPA as a barrier to building essential infrastructure and achieving energy and mineral dominance and to eliminate the threats NEPA poses to our economic wellbeing and national security. WMC has two suggestions to enhance the SPEED Act.

First, we believe an additional judicial reform measure is needed to eliminate the NEPA litigation cottage industry that currently capitalizes on NEPA as a lucrative business model for many environmental NGOs. To put a stop to NEPA litigation as a profit center for NEPA litigants, we suggest that the SPEED Act explicitly exempt NEPA litigation from cost recovery of attorneys' fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA).

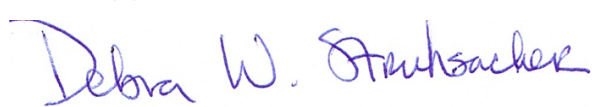
Secondly, suggest that the SPEED Act prohibit the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) from developing future NEPA implementing regulations. President Trump's Unleashing American Energy Executive Order (EO 14154) rescinded the 1977 Executive Order (EO 11991) directing the CEQ to develop NEPA regulations. Eliminating these CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1500 *et seq.*) was key element of fixing NEPA because they created the complicated procedural bureaucracy that gradually transformed NEPA into a project-delaying quagmire where federal agencies produced increasingly complex NEPA tomes that NGOs frequently challenged in federal court. The SPEED Act needs to prevent a future administration from directing its CEQ to enact NEPA new implementing regulations that replicate the problematic CEQ regulations developed during the Biden Administration. The SPEED Act needs to include this safeguard to prevent regulatory seesawing and to establish NEPA regulatory certainty going forward.

It is important to understand that the SPEED Act's proposed amendments to NEPA will not compromise environmental protection because NEPA is a solely procedural policy act and is not the source of environmental protection or environmental protection standards. Other federal laws like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act establish stringent environmental standards that govern projects. Consequently, the SPEED Act's measures to eliminate the time-consuming and litigious NEPA process will not change environmental protection requirements or diminish environmental protection.

WMC acknowledges that Congress enacted important improvements to NEPA in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. But these changes alone cannot reduce the dangerous chokehold that the NEPA process currently exerts on our economy and national security. The SPEED Act is necessary to eliminate NEPA's chokehold on our mineral and national security and our economic wellbeing, and to restore common sense to NEPA.

WMC applauds you and Congressman Golden for your leadership and vision in introducing this bill and we also thank the nine bipartisan cosponsors who recognize the importance of fixing the broken NEPA permitting process.

Sincerely yours,



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