

Dear Chairman Westerman and Committee Members,

American business is the driver for prosperity across our nation. The key to business success is being able to accomplish its goals with efficiency and economy. The governmental process, no matter how well intentioned, is often antithetical to the wealth creating capability of the free enterprise system. Any changes that we can build into the permitting and requirement system that allows for a predictable and time expedient process will benefit businesses in my state and across the entire country.

The NEPA procedural statute is a primary example of how business can be slowed down to a crawl. NEPA, originally intended to ensure a comprehensive and balanced view of environmental impact of a business venture, has become a confusing and paralyzing process for business ventures across the country. Neverending paperwork, stifling litigation, and confusing workflows spurred by the process have become a major hurdle for American free enterprise expressing its full potential.

The speed act not only simplifies and clarifies business requirements but also clarifies the analysis in NEPA submittals that have often led to perpetual research that has rarely ended in a positive outcome for business. Additionally, the sideboards that will be put in place regarding judicial review allows for business to have confidence that the work they put into the project will yield a good and profitable outcome.

Lastly, I would like to thank the committee for considering such a bold step to protect American business. Streamlining and clarifying the permitting process will help unleash the potential of American free enterprise to grow and strengthen the nation's economy. Free Enterprise has been the foundation of the American experience and its enhancement through the SPEED act will guarantee the competitiveness of business into the future and as a benefit will enrichen every citizen of our nation.

Onward and Upward,



Dale G. Steenbergen

CEO

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