



Cameron Brown
Chief Executive Officer

November 25, 2025

Submitted via Madeline.Kelley@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Letter of Support for the Streamlining Permitting, Efficiency, and Economic Development Act

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of Validus Energy II Midcon LLC (“Validus”), I am writing to express strong support for the Streamlining Permitting, Efficiency, and Economic Development (SPEED) Act. This crucial legislation represents a necessary and pragmatic step toward modernizing our nation's outdated regulatory framework, which has become a significant impediment to the development of critical energy resources and infrastructure and, by extension, the economic well-being of the United States.

Over the past 18 months, Validus has invested approximately \$3.5 billion acquiring upstream and midstream assets across Oklahoma. We currently operate four drilling rigs and maintain an annual capital expenditure budget exceeding \$300 million. As the second-largest oil and gas producer in the state, we are committed to continued responsible growth.

A substantial portion of both our drilled wells and our future development program is located on federal lands and minerals. However, the current federal permitting process—often opaque and excessively prolonged—has resulted in significant delays. Federal Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) take an average of nine months to secure, compared with approximately 15 days for non-federal permits. These delays push federal locations further down our drilling schedule, frequently forcing us to prioritize less economic non-federal sites instead.

The consequences are material. The delays have cost our company millions of dollars in deferred production and hindered the federal government's timely receipt of royalty revenues. More broadly, the permitting bottleneck creates regulatory uncertainty, discourages investment, suppresses job growth, undermines energy reliability, and limits the ability of the U.S. oil and gas industry to respond swiftly to domestic and global market conditions.

The SPEED Act addresses these fundamental flaws by implementing clear, common-sense reforms rooted in the principle that the National Environmental Policy Act must be returned to its intended purpose as a procedural statute. Establishing defined timelines for federal reviews, requiring concurrent agency action, and providing robust judicial review certainty will not only inject necessary accountability and predictability into the system but will also significantly reduce the opportunity for meritless legal challenges that routinely halt progress. Specifically, the Act aims to narrow the scope of required environmental review to focus on

Validus Energy
1530 16th Street • Denver, CO • 80202
cameronb@validus-energy.com

direct, predictable impacts, while instituting firm statutes of limitations for lawsuits and providing document durability to prevent permits from being endlessly revoked or stalled between administrations.

Importantly, the Act is technology-neutral, meaning these vital reforms will accelerate the deployment of all necessary energy infrastructure and the development of domestic mineral and mining projects. This acceleration is vital for securing American supply chains and maintaining global leadership in the advancement of emerging technologies. Passage of this Act will not only accelerate the deployment of responsible energy resources and key projects across the Natural Resources Committee's jurisdiction, including forest management and water infrastructure, but will also immediately spur infrastructure investment, creating thousands of high-wage, skilled jobs across the country. Furthermore, a more reliable energy infrastructure is essential for maintaining global competitiveness and strengthening our national energy security.

Our national energy security, our global competitiveness, and the economic prosperity of American workers depend on a modernized regulatory process. I implore you to champion the passage of the SPEED Act without delay. This legislation is the most direct route to rebuilding and modernizing the infrastructure backbone our nation requires.

Sincerely,

VALIDUS ENERGY II MIDCON LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Brown', with a stylized, flowing script.

Cameron Brown
Chief Executive Officer