



December 1, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: The American Public Gas Association Supports H.R. 4776, The Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act.

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the American Public Gas Association (APGA)¹ and the nearly 1,000 community-owned natural gas systems operating in 40 states across the country, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. As an association representing not-for-profit, locally owned utilities directly accountable to the communities they serve, APGA has long advocated for permitting certainty and timely federal processes that enable new energy infrastructure to be constructed responsibly. The SPEED Act is a meaningful step toward restoring an efficient National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) framework and enabling energy projects to proceed with the predictability APGA's members need.

For public gas systems, energy permitting reform is central to maintaining their ability to deliver energy affordably and reliably while also meeting the rapidly increasing demand for natural gas. In many regions across the country, APGA members are captive to a single interstate pipeline. This limits supply diversity and can multiply the negative impacts caused by capacity constraints. Demand for natural gas is increasing across public gas systems' customer bases: residential, commercial, and industrial. Communities from the East Coast to the West Coast are experiencing significant growth, creating new challenges for operators of natural gas distribution infrastructure. Some APGA members now have waitlists for new service or have had to turn away opportunities to serve prospective commercial customers due to insufficient pipeline capacity. This impacts local economies and results in real consequences for communities that could benefit from local job growth, broader tax bases, and the ability to invest in energy infrastructure.

The SPEED Act would help address these challenges by restoring a NEPA process that is focused, timely, and aligned with congressional intent. This legislation appropriately reaffirms NEPA's role as a procedural statute that ensures rigorous environmental review by federal agencies. It brings long-needed clarity to an unpredictable permitting landscape and proposes reforms that are grounded in the Supreme Court's recent *Seven County* decision, which will help reduce excessive timelines and curb frivolous litigation.

¹ American Public Gas Association <apga.org>

Altogether, the SPEED act will enable communities served by public gas utilities to benefit from infrastructure projects essential to energy reliability and local economic development.

APGA appreciates the House Natural Resources Committee's leadership in advancing a bipartisan bill that recognizes the practical realities facing utilities and energy consumers. Public gas systems play a vital role in delivering affordable and reliable energy while supporting their communities. Without access to additional pipeline capacity, APGA's members will continue to face challenges in meeting the needs of new customers and keeping costs affordable for their existing customers. Without appropriate permitting reform, communities will be hindered from fueling the economic growth that Americans are ready to pursue. The SPEED Act offers a balanced, common-sense approach to these challenges.

APGA stands ready to work with you, Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, and all Members of the House to ensure that communities across the country have access to the modern, reliable energy infrastructure they need to thrive. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dave Schryver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dave" and last name "Schryver" clearly distinguishable.

Dave Schryver
President & CEO
American Public Gas Association (APGA)

CC: The Honorable Bruce Westerman, The Honorable Jared Golden