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November 20, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Support for the SPEED Act with Emphasis on Tribal Considerations

Dear Chairman Westerman,

I am writing to express my support for the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act specifically as it relates to its consideration of Tribal Nations and the unique challenges they face under the current permitting framework.

For decades, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has imposed significant procedural burdens on projects involving Tribal trust lands. Unlike private property owners, Tribes must navigate a federal process that often results in years-long delays, increased costs, and lost opportunities for economic development—through no fault of their own. These barriers have stifled efforts to create jobs, attract investment, and responsibly manage lands for the benefit of Tribal communities.

The SPEED Act represents a first step forward in addressing these inequities. By streamlining NEPA reviews and reducing duplicative requirements, the legislation begins to level the playing field for Tribes seeking to develop infrastructure, energy projects, and other economic ventures on trust lands. Importantly, the bill acknowledges the procedural nature of NEPA while preserving environmental stewardship, and it offers Tribes greater certainty in the permitting process—a critical component for attracting investment and fostering long-term prosperity.

I look forward to continued dialogue to ensure that reforms do not inadvertently diminish Tribal sovereignty or environmental protections. Future steps should build on this foundation by providing Tribes with the tools and flexibility needed to manage their lands effectively and pursue economic opportunities consistent with their cultural values and self-determination.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I look forward to working together to ensure that permitting reform truly benefits all communities, including Tribal Nations

Sincerely,

Frank White Clay
Chairman of the Crow Tribe