



THE JICARILLA APACHE NATION

P.O. Box 507 • Dulce, New Mexico • 87528-0507

November 20, 2025

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

Re: Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act

Dear Chairman Westerman,

On behalf of the Jicarilla Apache Nation and our constituents, we are writing in support of the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act and the revisions proposed to include specific language for tribal trust lands that would provide greater deference to environmental reviews performed by Tribal Nations and limit judicial challenges on major federal actions on federally reserved lands. Outside groups should not be allowed to delay or prohibit projects on Tribal lands that have completed the necessary environmental review and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) processes.

The Jicarilla Apache Nation (the Nation) is a significant oil and gas producer, producing oil and gas from nearly 2,200 wells on its 879,917 acre reservation in the San Juan Basin. This production contributes greatly to the Nation's financial stability. Recent assessments have found that the Mancos Shale, occupied predominately by the Nation's reserved lands, holds 64 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of technically recoverable reserves of dry gas, ranking amongst the top 5 largest gas resources in the U.S. Our leadership is committed to fostering a robust oil and gas program to recover these resources in the coming years, and amending the SPEED Act to strengthen our sovereignty in this process will greatly assist us in meeting this objective.

The SPEED Act focuses on key issues associated with permitting, such as timelines, litigation, judicial review, and clarification as to when a federal environmental review as directed by NEPA is necessary. Importantly, the SPEED Act as amended by Chairman Westerman's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute, provides important deference to environmental reviews done by a Tribal Nation and provides greater control over resources of a tribal government in the judicial review process.

The Nation has robust environmental safeguards and enforcement mechanisms in place as we review and approve infrastructure projects. Protecting our homeland, sustaining it for future generations, is of utmost importance for our leadership. The SPEED Act, as amended to



strengthen tribal sovereignty, will strengthen our ability to ensure activities on our lands meet our standards without interference from outside groups. These improvements, importantly, better preserves Tribal sovereignty and will give us greater clarity to attract economic development on our lands.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and support towards greater tribal sovereignty.

Sincerely,



Adrian Notsinneh, President
Jicarilla Apache Nation

CC: Representative Jeff Hurd, Chairman of the U.S. House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs

Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, Ranking Member of the U.S. House Natural
Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs