



American  
Petroleum  
Institute

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February 24, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Westerman & Ranking Member Grijalva:

The American Petroleum Institute (API) writes regarding legislation to be considered during the upcoming legislative hearings on Tuesday, February 28, 2023: *The Transparency and Production of American Energy Act of 2023* (TAP Act) in the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee and *Building United States Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews Act of 2023* (BUILDER Act) in the full Committee. API is committed to meeting the challenge of providing affordable and reliable energy while continuing to reduce emissions. As the leading trade association representing the entire value chain of the U.S. oil and natural gas industry, API supports policies that strengthen our nation's energy security and our economy, and that protect our environment.

Last month, API released industry priorities for 2023 that include the adoption of policies that make, move and improve American energy and recognize U.S. oil and natural gas as a long-term strategic asset. API commends Chairman Westerman and Congressman Garret Graves (R-LA) for introducing important legislation that advances those priorities and we write to offer our support in these efforts.

The TAP Act discussion draft provides a sensible roadmap to renew our nation's commitment to onshore and offshore leasing of oil and natural gas. Federal lands and waters provide 25% of the oil and 11% of the natural gas we produce in the United States. A robust federal leasing program is essential to maintaining our nation's energy security and providing critical conservation funding throughout the country. Additionally, reforms to our permitting processes are critical to help move energy from where it is produced in the United States to where it is needed. This legislation will help streamline the nation's permitting processes to maintain America's energy advantage.

The BUILDER Act brings much-needed reform to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A recent study from Rystad Energy commissioned by API cited Council of Environmental Quality findings that showed between 2010 and 2018, the average NEPA Environmental Impact Statement took more than 4.5 years to complete and exceeded 600 pages. Delays in the NEPA process are costing billions of dollars in energy investment and locking up critical oil and natural gas resources that could reduce energy costs and enhance our energy security. The BUILDER Act will help expedite this process and unlock critical resources our nation needs.

As the push for energy legislation and permitting reform progresses in Congress, API stands ready to support policies that strengthen America's energy security and promote economic development and environmental stewardship.

We look forward to continuing to work with Members of the Committee and their colleagues in the House and Senate to support legislation that will restore America's energy leadership.

Sincerely,

Amanda E. Eversole

CC: The Honorable Pete Stauber, Chair, House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources