

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Paul Gosar
Chair
House Natural Resources Committee
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee

Dear Chair Gosar, Ranking Member Stansbury, and members of the Subcommittee:

Ahead of the Subcommittee hearing on Thursday, September 14th, our organizations write to express our support for the Biden Administration's proposed "Bipartisan Permitting Reform Implementation Rule," which will finalize the White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) update to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. This rule embodies a commitment to environmental protection and the rule of law, and we support its focus on climate action, environmental justice, and the rapid and responsible development of truly clean, renewable energy infrastructure.

NEPA has been a cornerstone of environmental policy for more than five decades, ensuring that federal actions consider and address their environmental, health, and economic impacts. Strong NEPA rules are particularly important for Indian country and tribal citizens as it is one of the few safeguards for actions on lands held in trust by the federal government. CEQ's proposed revisions to the NEPA rule are a welcomed effort to modernize and improve this bedrock environmental law that Congress should recognize and support.

While long overdue, we applaud CEQ's commitment to incorporating climate change and environmental justice considerations into NEPA reviews. Recognizing the existential threat that climate change poses and the disproportionate impacts it has on marginalized communities, this aspect of the draft rule is both timely and essential. By integrating climate considerations and explicitly incorporating environmental justice concerns into federal decision-making, the rule takes a significant step towards ensuring a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.

Our organizations look forward to working collaboratively with the Administration to ensure that the rule strengthens environmental protections, advances the fight against climate change, promotes environmental justice for all, and is finalized as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
American Rivers
CalWild
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
CURE
Dakota Resource Council
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Food & Water Watch
Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights
GreenLatinos
Information Network for Responsible Mining
Interfaith Power & Light
LCV
Los Padres ForestWatch
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean Defense Initiative
Operation HomeCare, Inc.
Oxfam America
Sierra Club
Silvix Resources
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The Wilderness Society
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Western Environmental Law Center
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Zero Hour