

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 5509, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5509

To modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Ms. PORTER (for herself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Electronic Permitting
5 Modernization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PERMIT ACCESSI-**
2 **BILITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to improve the overall
4 economy, efficiency, and management of operations and
5 activities of the Department of the Interior (referred to
6 in this section as the “Department”), reduce paperwork,
7 and provide high-quality services and access to the public,
8 the Secretary of the Interior shall, to the extent prac-
9 ticable—

10 (1) design and deliver modernized electronic
11 permitting systems to accept, process, and record
12 applications (including plan submissions, payment
13 activity, and other related correspondence) for per-
14 mits, forms, and other paperwork required for activi-
15 ties regulated by the Department;

16 (2) provide a centralized electronic permitting
17 system online repository, available to the public on
18 the Department’s website, that includes—

19 (A) hyperlinks to facilitate navigation to
20 all Department electronic permitting systems;
21 and

22 (B) with respect to permits, the contact in-
23 formation for the appropriate Department em-
24 ployees providing assistance to State, Tribal,
25 and local governments; and

1 (3) provide to the Committee on Natural Re-
2 sources of the House of Representatives and the
3 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
4 Senate periodic updates on the implementation of
5 paragraphs (1) and (2).

6 (b) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION PROHIBITED.—
7 No information described in section 552(b) of title 5,
8 United States Code, or protected from disclosure by an-
9 other law of the United States shall be disclosed under
10 this Act.

11 (c) DUPLICATION OF SYSTEMS NOT PERMITTED.—
12 No system shall be duplicated under this Act.

13 (d) CONSULTATION.—In developing the permitting
14 systems required under section 2 of this Act, the Secretary
15 of the Interior shall consult with States, local govern-
16 ments, Indian Tribes and other stakeholders who apply
17 for agency permits and will use the permitting systems.

18 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO ENSURE CONSIST-**
19 **ENCY WITH THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**
20 **ACT OF 2023.**

21 In developing the permitting systems required under
22 section 2 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall
23 ensure that the Department's electronic permitting sys-
24 tems are consistent with the priorities identified in section
25 110 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42

- 1 U.S.C. 4336d) with respect to any permit that requires
- 2 review under that Act.