

September 17, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing producers, utilities, developers, manufacturers, miners, consumers, distributors and advocacy groups across America's energy industry, we urge the Senate to swiftly consider and pass the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (S. 4753). The bill contains critical reforms to our federal permitting process necessary to generate more American energy and build the infrastructure needed to deliver it.

America's energy industry is united in one common goal – providing affordable, reliable, cleaner domestic energy. But our current permitting system frequently prevents us from accomplishing that goal bogging down our projects in bureaucratic delays and endless litigation. For example, it can take up to 10 years to permit a single transmission line and 18 years, on average, to move mining projects through the federal permitting process, 3-8 years just for litigation. According to the Council on Environmental Quality, the average time from a Notice of Intent (NOI) to a Record of Decision at the Department of Interior is 5 years, which excludes time before the NOI and time for litigation. This is unacceptable.

The bipartisan Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 delivers common sense reforms to provide the predictability and timely decision-making needed for large scale energy and mineral projects, without jeopardizing environmental protections. The bill proposes reasonable timelines for agency action and ensure ample opportunity and access to our judicial system.

As Chairman Manchin noted, there is no such thing as a perfect bill. This legislation represents months of difficult negotiation, but it makes tremendous progress toward creating a clear, predictable permitting process. There will be additional opportunities to improve the bill as it moves through the legislative process. But the strong, bipartisan vote in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on July 31 is a clear indication of how vital this legislation is to all aspects of our economy.

Domestic energy and mineral demand is on the rise. Under the existing permitting regime, we cannot meet our energy, security and environmental goals. Failure to act puts in jeopardy hundreds of billions of dollars of private investment in our nation's infrastructure, hundreds of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of metric tons of carbon emissions reductions.

We need action.

We ask for your support in passing permitting reform. Together we can build the energy infrastructure needed to fuel the future and deliver affordable, reliable clean American energy. Thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

American Council on Renewable Energy  
American Chemistry Council  
Advanced Energy United  
American Clean Power Association  
American Conservation Coalition Action  
American Council for Capital Formation  
American Critical Minerals Association  
American Exploration and Mining Association  
American Exploration and Production Council  
American Pipeline Contractors Association  
American Public Gas Association  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Battery Materials & Technology Coalition  
Bipartisan Policy Center Action  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy  
Center for LNG  
Clean Energy Buyers Association  
ClearPath Action  
Composite Panel Association  
ConservAmerica  
Consumer Energy Alliance  
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions  
Critical Minerals Association  
Electric Power Supply Association  
Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance  
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association  
Grid Action  
Hardwood Federation  
Metals Service Center Institute  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association

National Ocean Industries Association  
National Utility Contractors Associations  
Natural Gas Supply Association  
Power and Communication Contractors Association  
Progressive Policy Institute  
Solar Energy Industries Association  
Solar Energy Manufacturers for America Coalition  
The Fertilizer Institute  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Water and Sewer Distributors of America  
Western Energy Alliance

CC: Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso