

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Brenda Mallory
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

To Ms. Mallory:

The undersigned members of the Unlock American Investment coalition congratulate you on your confirmation to serve as Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Your extensive experience makes you well qualified to serve in this important role. We look forward to working with you on topics of mutual interest.

The U.S. is falling behind in the quality of our infrastructure, a fact that threatens economic growth and competitiveness. The American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent report card gave U.S. infrastructure a "C-" and the World Economic Forum ranked the U.S. 13th in the world for the overall quality of our infrastructure. We appreciate the President's focus on improving the quality of our nation's infrastructure, from roads and bridges to broadband and electric transmission.

There is no doubt we need such investments to help grow the economy, as well as to revitalize disadvantaged and underserved communities. However, investment alone is not enough. To realize their associated benefits, we need to ensure that the full range of critical infrastructure projects can be delivered in a timely manner. This effort must be accompanied by improvements in the federal environmental review and permitting process.

Our coalition represents the business innovators, designers, construction workers, trade unions, and others from across the economy who experience first-hand the challenges of the convoluted federal environmental review and permitting process. Unreasonable delays and associated burdens of the process stifle both private and public investment. We fully support environmental reviews and meaningful public input, but the inefficient federal decision-making process can waste already limited public funds and delay the intended benefits of projects, including many that would further the Administration's climate goals. In fact, we believe it will be impossible for America to rise up to the climate challenge without a more efficient environmental review and permitting process.

As you begin your new role, our coalition requests the opportunity to meet virtually with you as you consider policies to improve the quality of the environment and the decision-making process that will have a tremendous impact on the timely delivery of the President's infrastructure priorities.

Once again, congratulations and we look forward to the opportunity to speak with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Exploration and Production Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Gas Association
American Highway Users Alliance
American Petroleum Institute
American Public Gas Association
American Road and Transportation Builders Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Oil Pipe Lines
Consumer Energy Alliance
Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
Federal Forest Resource Coalition
Hardwood Federation
Independent Petroleum Association of America
LNG Allies, The US LNG Association
National Asphalt and Pavement Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Realtors
National Cattleman's Beef Association
National Lime Association
National Mining Association
National Ocean Industries Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association
North America's Building Trades Unions
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce