



American
Petroleum
Institute



September 3, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324-A Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Westerman and Graves and Ranking Members Huffman and Larsen,

On behalf of the companies who produce, transport, and deliver natural gas across the nation, the Natural Gas Council writes to urge you to work collaboratively to advance policies that would expedite permitting for critical energy infrastructure under key statutes. Importantly, Congress can reform processes that would establish timelines, clarify the scope of agency review, and reduce the uncertainty associated with judicial review *without* compromising the United States' environmental protections.

More than 189 million Americans and nearly six million businesses use natural gas because it is safe, affordable, reliable and essential to improving our environment. Our nation's natural gas industry is the fundamental underpinning of a growing U.S. economy, adding an additional customer every minute daily, and approximately 60 businesses begin new natural gas service every day. Moreover, U.S. electricity demand is projected to rise due to increased demand from various sectors and because of the re-shoring of manufacturing, and an expansion of AI and data centers.

The Energy Information Administration's (EIA) recent [Annual Energy Outlook](#) estimates that by 2050 American electricity net generation will rise by more than 45 percent, and natural gas consumption is [projected](#) to exceed the already record levels in 2024 over the next two years. While employing approximately four million individuals and supporting an additional 1.1 million jobs, the natural gas sector provides households and businesses with additional disposable income from lower energy costs. The flexibility and storage of natural gas has also been key to expanding renewable energy to minimize the risk of energy supply disruptions during times of intermittent load while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Clear, predictable infrastructure permitting processes remain instrumental to achieving our shared economic, security, and climate-related goals. As domestic energy demand continues to escalate, additional pipeline capacity will be needed to move natural gas from production centers to consumers. Unfortunately, the current processes to site and approve new and expanded infrastructure remain

cumbersome, often stalling projects for years with duplicative reviews, unnecessarily burdensome approvals, and unending legal challenges. These inefficiencies hamper access to domestic natural gas resources, creating reliance on imports, raising energy costs in certain regions, and, in the worst cases, limiting access to energy during periods of extreme weather.

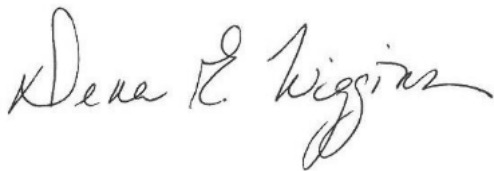
To address these problems, Congress must reform the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 certification process as directed in changes contained in H.R. 3898, the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act. This measure would promote efficiency, properly scope state reviews and conditioning of permits, eliminate inconsistent results across agencies, and make certain that state agencies use the process only as Congress intended to protect water quality. Congress should continue the availability of the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program, which is also addressed in the PERMIT Act, for the construction of new natural gas infrastructure projects and the maintenance of existing infrastructure to ensure safety and reliability. H.R. 3898 also provides process improvements, such as the extension of permit terms and acreage threshold adjustments that will encourage infrastructure projects that help industry support growing demand while fostering environmental stewardship.

In addition, Congress should eliminate unnecessarily protracted National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews by clarifying that agencies should only analyze reasonably foreseeable environmental effects causally related to the proposed project, focusing analyses on feasible alternatives, and establishing review schedules. While the recent *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition vs. Eagle County, Colorado* Supreme Court decision helped to clarify and limit the scope of NEPA reviews, it remains important for Congress to codify the Court's core holdings in statute for consistency across agencies. Statutory changes, including those contained in H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, would provide the long-term regulatory certainty needed for natural gas infrastructure investment.

Finally, Congress should take action to implement meaningful judicial reform, including specific timelines for judicial review, to prevent critical energy infrastructure projects from getting bogged down in litigation for years. This much needed reform will drive economic progress for our nation, homeowners and businesses alike, and help ensure Americans have access to the reliable energy they want, need and expect.

As the Natural Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees consider permitting reform policies, the Natural Gas Council and the companies we represent stand ready to discuss those recommendations and work in a bipartisan manner to enact them. Modernizing current laws while preserving environmental stewardship would enable development of the energy infrastructure necessary to continue delivering the benefits of natural gas to the American people.

Sincerely,



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Natural Gas Supply Association



Dustin Meyer
Senior Vice President
American Petroleum Institute



Amy Andryszak
President & CEO
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America



Karen Harbert
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