



American  
Petroleum  
Institute



September 3, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Chairman Lee and Ranking Members Whitehouse and Heinrich,

On behalf of the companies who produce, transport and deliver natural gas across the nation, the Natural Gas Council writes to urge you to advance policies that would restore predictability to the permitting of essential natural gas infrastructure projects.

Permitting reforms for our energy infrastructure networks are crucial to meeting our reliability, affordability, and climate goals. 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 been key to expanding renewable energy to minimize the risk of energy supply disruptions during times of intermittent load while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, current federal permitting processes for new and existing energy infrastructure remain cumbersome, often stalling projects for years with duplicative reviews, burdensome approvals, and unending legal challenges. The Fiscal Responsibility Act was an important first step towards addressing these issues, but the United States needs additional substantive reforms to unlock the benefits of expanded energy infrastructure for Americans. Importantly, Congress can make targeted reforms to the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that establish reasonable agency permitting decisions and judicial review for natural gas infrastructure, while promoting stakeholder engagement and maintaining the United States' strong environmental protections.

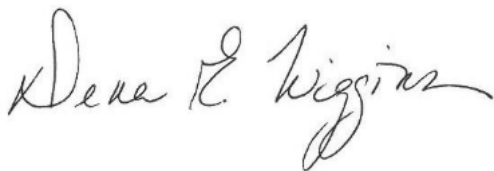
To address these problems, Congress must reform the CWA Section 401 certification process to promote efficiency, properly scope state reviews and conditioning of permits, eliminate inconsistent results across agencies, and ensure that agencies use the process only to protect water quality, not pursue unrelated goals. Congress should also continue the availability of the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program for the construction of new natural gas infrastructure projects and the maintenance of existing infrastructure to ensure safety and reliability.

In addition, Congress should eliminate unnecessarily protracted NEPA reviews by clarifying 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 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.

To ensure a reliable, affordable, and sustainable future, the United States needs meaningful and durable statutory permitting reforms for natural gas infrastructure. We are encouraged by the ongoing discussions on this important matter and hope you will act quickly to address our country's critical energy infrastructure needs. The Natural Gas Council and the companies we represent stand ready to work in a bipartisan manner to help enact policies to achieve this central objective.

Sincerely,



Dena Wiggins  
President & CEO  
Natural Gas Supply Association



Dustin Meyer  
Senior Vice President  
American Petroleum Institute



Amy Andryszak  
President & CEO  
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America



Karen Harbert  
President & CEO  
American Gas Association



Jeff Eshelman  
President & CEO  
Independent Petroleum Association of America