



May 11, 2023

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

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

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairmen Manchin and Carper and Ranking Members Barrasso and Capito,

A modern U.S. infrastructure system – including pipelines, transmission, waterways, rail, and trucking networks – is crucial to providing a reliable energy supply to all parts of the country. Investments to modernize infrastructure, including expanding current capacity and building new capacity, can help ensure that energy remains affordable for American consumers; create good-paying jobs; give U.S. manufacturers a competitive advantage through lower energy and raw material costs; and provide revenue to local, state, and federal governments. Yet, decades-long challenges with the existing permitting process have hampered the development of critical infrastructure projects and jeopardized American energy security.

The foundation of a secure, reliable, and affordable energy future is regulatory certainty and permit durability. To fully harness the power of American energy and support consumers at home and abroad, the permitting process should be transparent, timely, and consistent.

In recognition of the importance that energy infrastructure plays in the nation's economic and national security, we call on Congress to pass a meaningful permitting reform bill this year that makes a real difference in reviewing projects for the production, processing, and delivery of energy.

For decades, energy permitting challenges have stymied investment in critical infrastructure, delaying numerous infrastructure projects, and in some instances, canceling some projects due to continuous delays and cost overruns. Our organizations stand with the members of both parties in Congress, in recognizing that permitting reform is necessary to achieve the full benefits of critical infrastructure projects and to fulfill the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act.

Meaningful permitting reform affects all industries, well beyond the energy space, and targeted statutory reforms in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404)

will create a more conducive environment for moving critical projects forward, while still maintaining important environmental reviews and stakeholder engagement. Our organizations further recognize that issues related to transmission will also need to be addressed to fully fulfill the objectives of Congress' investment in large-scale energy infrastructure projects. Finally, while the fundamental changes to the above referenced statutes may address many of the legal challenges projects currently face, additional judicial reform will be necessary to bring critical infrastructure projects from concept to operation.

Our organizations look forward to working with Congress to advance meaningful bipartisan permitting reform this year.

Sincerely,

American Exploration & Production Council

American Gas Association

American Petroleum Institute

Independent Petroleum Association of America

Interstate Natural Gas Association of America

Liquid Energy Pipeline Association