

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Chair
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and members of the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

On behalf of the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), I write in support of today's hearing¹ examining the need to modernize the federal government's permitting process. Regrettably, today's permitting system is burdened by delays, uncertainty, and duplicative reviews that stall investment and innovation, leave critical infrastructure projects in limbo for years, and stifle jobs for America's electrical contractors and employees.

Founded in 1957, IEC is a national trade association representing more than 4,100 members with 53 educational campuses and affiliate local chapters nationwide. IEC is the leading organization representing America's independent electrical and systems contractors. In 2025, IEC educated more than 20,000 electrical apprentices through its world-class, government-registered apprenticeship and workforce development programs. IEC advocates for a competitive marketplace that supports contractors, their employees, customers, and taxpayers by advancing the merit shop philosophy and the principles of free enterprise, open competition, and economic opportunity for all.

Unfortunately, IEC members and their private and government customers continue to face unnecessary delays, excessive bureaucratic hurdles, and regulatory uncertainty resulting from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and other similar laws and regulations in need of modernization.

As the committee considers legislation to modernize the federal environmental review and permitting processes, IEC urges the Senate to act this year to support American infrastructure development and the electrical contracting community by advancing IEC-supported legislation passed by the House this Congress.

IEC supports provisions of the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act² (H.R. 4776), introduced by House Natural Resources Committee Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR), that will streamline the dysfunctional federal permitting process and provide greater transparency for the construction industry, project developers, and the public.

Specifically, the SPEED Act will set reasonable timelines for filing judicial review claims, narrow the scope of NEPA review, clarify that federal funding and assistance should not be the determinant of

¹ [Improving the Federal Environmental Review and Permitting Process, Part 2](#), Jan. 28, 2026.

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4776>

whether an agency action is determined to be a “major Federal action,” and codify other needed reforms to NEPA. Together, these reforms will reduce unnecessary permitting delays and the potential for activist groups to block projects they oppose through litigation tactics that can lead to project cancellations. These reforms will give project sponsors and contractors increased certainty, enabling them to plan and invest with confidence.

In addition, IEC urges the Senate to examine and advance other permit reform legislation moved by the House and supported by IEC, such as the ePermit Act³ (H.R. 4503), introduced by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD), the Studying NEPA’s Impact on Projects Act⁴ (H.R. 573), introduced by Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN), and the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act⁵ (H.R. 3898), introduced by Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA).

Of note, IEC supports the PERMIT Act’s inclusion of the Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act (H.R. 3927), introduced by Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC), because it creates a new category of nationwide permits for linear infrastructure projects that will speed the approval of infrastructure, power, and utility-based infrastructure while maintaining the environmental impact safeguards needed to build infrastructure responsibly.

Collectively, these IEC-supported bills advance essential reforms and promote a predictable, transparent permitting process. Doing so enables the construction industry to deliver infrastructure projects efficiently while protecting communities and the environment, strengthening the economy, and creating jobs.

IEC looks forward to working with you on advancing additional regulatory reforms and common-sense policies to deliver quality infrastructure to America.

Sincerely,



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³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4503>

⁴ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/573>

⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3898>