



WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

We write to you today, as a coalition of oil and natural gas trade associations representing over 80% of domestic production in the United States, urging you to take swift action on permitting reform before the close of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. We strongly believe that immediate action on this important issue is critical for our industry to fully unleash the power of American energy as the results of the election in November clearly shows the American people support.

Permitting reform is critical to bolstering America's energy security, growing American jobs, and building much-needed energy infrastructure to support the projected energy demands in our country in the coming years. According to an analysis by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, in 2000, on average, it took two years for an energy infrastructure project to go from the point of its first permit being filed to becoming operational in the United States. This includes everything from interstate gas pipelines to renewable energy transmission projects. Over 20 years later, in 2022, the average was over 5 years. Such delays discourage investment in these projects and threatens our energy security. Many projects take even longer or are ultimately cancelled as funding is lost or companies simply give up.

While we certainly support additional Congressional action on the issue in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, our coalition believes there is an opportunity in the coming weeks to pass the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024, which will in turn expedite President Trump's ability to execute on his promise to unleash American energy early in his first term. The bill would help streamline the federal approval process for major energy projects, accelerate agency reviews of these projects, and fix longstanding gaps in the nation's leasing and judicial review processes

While this bill is merely the first step towards comprehensive permitting reform in this country, we believe that passing the package now, at the end of the 118<sup>th</sup>, and then earnestly advancing additional National Environmental Policy Act reforms such as those being drafted by Chairman Westerman in the Natural Resources Committee, will ensure that America can get back on track as quickly as possible.

We look forward to working together with you on our common goal of American energy dominance.

Sincerely,

Energy Workforce & Technology Council

Gulf Energy Alliance

International Association of Drilling Contractors

Independent Petroleum Association of America

National Ocean Industries Association

Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

U.S. Oil & Gas Association

Western Energy Alliance