

September 21, 2020

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Crawford
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials
United State House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Members Graves and Crawford:

Thank you for your committee's continued support for legislative proposals intended to spur America's strong economic recovery and growth. Workers and communities across the Nation benefit when America can build. We support legislation that will modernize the infrastructure project review process and reduce unnecessary permitting delays that prevent needed infrastructure from being built timely and stand in the way of putting America back to work.

Legislation to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will help ensure the durability of CEQ's recent regulatory changes and provide regulatory certainty to federal agencies responsible for implementing the NEPA regulations and to regulated entities who must comply with these regulations. In recent years, federal reviews of proposed infrastructure projects have sometimes taken five or more years to complete. Congress can take further steps to make project permitting more efficient and predictable.

Language you proposed in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is included in a new package of reforms from Rep. Graves that establishes and clarifies the threshold determinations for when to prepare an environmental document under NEPA, clarifies the scope of the NEPA review, defines key NEPA terms, permits a project sponsor to assist agencies in conducting environmental reviews to help improve the efficiency of the process, and sets presumed reasonable time limits for the completion of environmental documents. We urge you to promote these permitting improvements and encourage the full House to consider this legislation.

Whether it is roads, bridges, ports, renewable energy, or pipelines, America benefits from an efficient, clear and predictable permitting process. Congress should take this opportunity to modernize the infrastructure project review process so needed infrastructure can be built in a timely manner and pursuant to a thorough environmental review process.

Sincerely,

American Public Gas Association
Association of Oil Pipe Lines
GPA Midstream Association
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America