



Citizens' Climate Lobby

The Energy Permitting Reform Act 2024 ([S.4753](#))

Lock in climate wins now

CCL urges all Members of Congress to pass the Energy Permitting Act of 2024 now before this session of Congress ends.

We believe it is critical to speed up the process for building America's clean energy infrastructure. Changes to the current process for permitting energy projects must be made to lower greenhouse gas emissions and make certain that American households have access to affordable and reliable clean energy. Permitting reform should be done in a way that protects communities, preserves their ability to provide input, and preserves the integrity of our bedrock environmental laws. We do not agree with all provisions of the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024, but believe on balance the bill is a reasonable bipartisan compromise and achieves these goals.

The status quo has led to lower reliability, higher costs for consumers and slow emissions reductions. Speeding up the process to expand and update our country's energy transmission system is a key part of what is needed. In recent years, the nation has only expanded its electricity transmission capabilities at a rate of 1% annually, well below the 2% rate seen in prior decades. Building a new transmission line, on average, takes over a decade. If construction of energy infrastructure continues at this pace, we will not be able to lower our emissions at the speed and scale necessary to meet our climate ambition.

The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 includes key reforms to our energy permitting process. Most importantly, it streamlines permitting authority for interstate transmission lines, while preserving state involvement and will ensure robust interregional transmission planning. It sets a goal for permitting renewable energy on federal land by 2030. It also establishes several important categorical exclusions for low impact projects and makes major improvements to permitting processes for geothermal projects. Lastly, it sets a reasonable statute of limitations for judicial review.

Congress should not wait to tackle permitting reform. This bill is a thoughtfully drafted bipartisan compromise that should be passed now. Many economic incentives are in place to vastly increase the production of renewable energy and significantly decrease America's greenhouse gas emissions. Now we must tackle the permitting barriers that prevent projects being built at the speed needed.

Again, we believe this bill makes needed changes to the energy permitting process and we urge you to support the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 and to work with Congressional leadership to advance this bill now.