

The Energy Permitting Reform Act 2024: (S.4753)

Achieve Energy Dominance, decrease cost, and improve reliability

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

We believe it is critical to speed up the process for building America's energy infrastructure. Changes to the current process for permitting energy projects must be made to make certain that American households have access to affordable and reliable clean energy and lower greenhouse gas emissions. 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, but vastly improves our ability to build energy infrastructure. The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 is a reasonable bipartisan compromise and achieves these goals.

The Energy Permitting Act of 2024 includes key reforms to our energy permitting process:

- It sets a reasonable statute of limitations for judicial review of NEPA claims.
- It also establishes several important categorical exclusions for low impact projects and makes major improvements in permitting processes for geothermal projects.
- Provides needed clarifications around mining permitting.
- Streamlines permitting authority for interstate transmission lines, while preserving state involvement and ensuring robust interregional transmission planning.
- It sets a goal for permitting renewable energy on federal land by 2030.
- It also will provide greater certainty for the development of all energy projects.

The status quo has led to lower reliability and higher costs for consumers. As we seek to revitalize American manufacturing, increase our national security, compete with China and lower our emissions, our power demand is set to surge. Speeding up the process to expand and update our country's energy infrastructure is a key part of what is needed. If construction of energy infrastructure continues at this pace, America will not be able to meet the demands of this century.

Congress should not wait to tackle permitting reform. Needed changes cannot be made through executive action or the budget reconciliation process. This bill is a thoughtfully drafted bipartisan compromise that should be passed now, even if more changes to how we permit energy projects are needed in the future.

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.