



July 3, 2025

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 67 chapters representing more than 23,000 members, I write today in support of [H.R.3898](#), the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act. The PERMIT Act, as amended, contains much-needed, commonsense reforms to the Clean Water Act that promote transparency and certainty for landowners and project sponsors and ensures that approved projects move forward on time.

Among the PERMIT Act's many essential reforms, ABC particularly supports:

- **Clarifying the Definition of WOTUS:** Explicitly excluding groundwater and ephemerals that flow in direct response to precipitation from the definition of Waters of the United States reduces expansive interpretations of WOTUS and limitations on construction taking place on such land.
- **Expediting Jurisdictional Determinations:** Directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite procedures and augment personnel and resources will help eliminate the backlog of jurisdictional determinations and Section 404 applications.
- **Extending and Streamlining the Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit Process:** Extending nationwide general permit times from five to 10 years may enable contractors to complete projects within the permitted time frame. Further, allowing the use of environmental assessments for the reissuance of permits will streamline permitting for already approved projects.
- **Extending NPDES Permit Terms:** Extending the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit time from five to 10 years provides longer validity for construction permits.
- **Ensuring Permitted Projects Move Forward:** Establishing that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's authority to deny or restrict the use of a defined space as a disposal site is limited to the period between a completed application and permit issuance will reduce the risk of late-stage permit cancellation.

ABC believes this legislation is an essential step toward eliminating redundant delays and excessive permitting uncertainty that often leads to cost overruns and project setbacks. By establishing a coordinated, predictable and transparent permitting process, the PERMIT Act empowers the construction industry to efficiently plan and execute the most complex projects while continuing to protect communities, preserve environmental quality and ensure the responsible use of taxpayer funds.

ABC urges you to support H.R.3898, the PERMIT Act, as it represents the most comprehensive federal regulatory permitting and project review reform legislation on the table this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Swearingen', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Government Affairs