

January 30, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Rouzer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Graves and Rouzer and Ranking Members Larsen and Napolitano:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to favorably report the Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act.<sup>1</sup>

Building smart, modern, resilient infrastructure through innovation and responsible development is a top priority for the business community. Linear infrastructure from pipelines and transmission lines to other critical infrastructure plays an essential role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing energy security for the United States and our allies. Thousands of miles of hydrogen and CO2 pipelines will be needed to meet ambitious climate goals. This legislation will also help expedite the delivery of clean water for communities and broadband needed to support small business innovation. Ensuring a strong, stable, and predictable nationwide permitting program is critical for the United States to sustainably grow and prosper.

We support NWP-12 and the Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act for the following reasons:

- **Contributing to our national and energy security.** The current geopolitical crisis related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine underscores the need to maintain, and expeditiously augment and upgrade, our domestic energy production to support our allies.

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<sup>1</sup> We also support the additional bills at markup, *Reducing Permitting Uncertainty Act* – introduced by Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN), *Water Quality Criteria Development and Transparency Act* – introduced by Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT), *Judicial Review Timeline Clarity Act* – introduced by Rep. Eric Burlison (R-MO); *Confidence in Clean Water Permits Act* – introduced by Rep. John Duarte (R-CA)

- **Ensuring electricity reliability.** The consistent delivery of natural gas needed for power generation is critical for reliable electricity across the United States and crucial to our economic well-being and our national security.
- **Providing the foundation for decarbonization infrastructure.** Natural gas has been among the leading contributors to reducing GHG emissions, both as a primary generation feedstock and to balance the increasing integration of renewable resources into our electric grid.
- **Serving customers with affordable energy.** Rising energy costs and resulting energy burdens are a significant challenge for disadvantaged communities. Cost effective approaches to support the transmission of natural gas is important to ensure affordable energy to communities.
- **Providing predictability and regulatory certainty for NWP-12.** Applicants are familiar with the current program and rely on existing processes to make planning and investment decisions and to maintain and harden infrastructure for resiliency. Without consistent application and processes, the resulting uncertainty hampers these businesses as they examine and consider significant expenses for future development.

Data from the Army Corps of Engineers shows that it takes longer and costs more to obtain an individual permit. Since 2018, the cost of obtaining an individual permit has increased from between four to eight times as much. This increased cost and the growing time involved with obtaining individual permit verification underscores the need for an efficient permitting process and a legislative fix.

Therefore, we again ask the Committee to pass the Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act and the other permit reform measures when it meets this week. We stand ready to assist you.

Sincerely,

American Gas Association  
American Petroleum Institute  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Essential Minerals Association  
Independent Petroleum Association of America  
Liquid Energy Pipeline Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Members of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment