



June 20, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Wilson:

On behalf of the nearly 900 not-for-profit electric cooperative members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), I write in support of legislation under consideration by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that will streamline permitting under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

America's electric cooperatives are owned by the people they serve and comprise a unique sector of the electric industry. From growing regions to remote farming communities, electric cooperatives power 1 in 8 Americans and serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Reliable and affordable electricity is essential to America's economic growth. And as our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power our economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important – or more challenging. It is essential that federal permitting programs – including those under the CWA – are implemented as intended by Congress and do not unnecessarily delay or hinder critical infrastructure projects essential to delivering electricity to homes, businesses, and farms across the country.

Electric cooperatives rely on CWA permits to maintain and repair critical energy infrastructure such as transmission and distribution lines, undergo vegetation management along electric utilities rights of way to prevent damage and wildfires, and safely manage discharges from power plants and other electric infrastructure necessary to meet increasing electricity demand and

provide reliable and affordable electricity to their consumer-members. The CWA permitting bills introduced by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee would reduce overly burdensome regulatory requirements, protect against frivolous lawsuits, and increase transparency and efficiency in the CWA permitting process while maintaining important environmental protections.

We appreciate your support to address these issues and urge Congress to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LF' or 'L. Finkel', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Louis Finkel
SVP, Government Affairs