

Written Testimony of Representative Jen Kiggans

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T&I Member Day Panel Testimony

As the representative of Virginia's Second Congressional District, I remain committed to ensuring that federal policies support—rather than hinder—local development, national security, and fairness for all servicemembers.

On the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule:

Local development of housing within my district has been significantly stifled by the Biden-era WOTUS rule. This rule, as applied by the previous administration, failed to adhere to the Supreme Court's *Sackett* decision, perpetuating broad federal overreach, slow implementation, poor guidance to regulated communities, and costly delays for critical infrastructure projects. I commend the Trump Administration for taking swift action to lay the groundwork for Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking to update and replace the Biden-WOTUS rule. As Members of Congress, we must remain vigilant and ensure that, if a Trump-WOTUS rule is enacted, it is implemented efficiently and faithfully.

On the Air Traffic Control Workforce and Aviation Safety:

My district is home to Naval Air Station Oceana, the East Coast Master Jet Base of the U.S. Navy. As a former naval aviator, I fully appreciate the vital importance of well-trained aviation professionals. Currently, the United States faces a shortfall of nearly 3,000 air traffic controllers. However, I applaud the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's responsiveness to recent aviation safety concerns, and I support the President's \$12.5 billion investment to overhaul and modernize our aging air traffic control system and strengthen training and staffing pipelines.

On the Coast Guard Parity Act:

As a Navy veteran, I deeply understand the value and sacrifice of military service. Yet, the Coast Guard remains the only branch of our armed forces without full parity in separation policies. The Coast Guard Parity Act ensures that enlisted members with over 18 years of service are not involuntarily separated before reaching retirement eligibility. This legislation brings Coast Guard standards in line with those of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force. It will improve morale, enhance retention, and rightfully honor the dedication of long-serving Coast Guardsmen. Our Coast Guard deserves the same respect, benefits, and protections afforded to every other military branch.

Together, these issues reflect our commitment to national defense, infrastructure development, and fairness for all servicemembers.