



The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Rouzer
Chair
Subcommittee on Water Resources
& Environment
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources
& Environment
U.S. House of Representatives

January 29, 2024

Dear Chair Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chair Rouzer and Ranking Member Napolitano:

The Liquid Energy Pipeline Association (LEPA) supports H.R. 7023, the *Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act*. H.R. 7023 includes in section 5, the *Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act*, originally introduced by Chair Rouzer. As this committee knows, transportation is the key link to getting products from where they are produced to where they are needed. When it comes to energy, pipelines are no different. H.R. 7023 will ensure regulators continue to treat pipeline projects just like other linear transportation infrastructure with timely and appropriate permitting.

The Nationwide Permitting program has a history of bipartisan support. In the 1970s, a Democratic Congress enacted, and a Democratic president signed, amendments to the Clean Water Act creating the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program. At the time, the Corps of Engineers faced an unnecessary flood of individual wetlands permit applications for projects with little to no impact on the environment. Congress enshrined a common-sense program to streamline permitting for projects with "only minimal adverse impacts on the environment."

H.R. 7023 will ensure energy and carbon dioxide pipelines are not singled out for unfair treatment even as they meet the statutory minimal impacts requirement. Recent litigation and regulatory reviews have sought to slow down or stop use of the NWP program for pipeline infrastructure. Slowing down or stopping pipeline projects that provide affordable, reliable and abundant energy is unfair to the American public and contrary to the original intent of the law. LEPA urges the Committee to report H.R. 7023 favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J. Black".

Andrew J. Black