

July 27, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and House Minority Leader Jeffries:

We, the undersigned, write to urge you and your colleagues in Congress to act swiftly to pass comprehensive, bipartisan permitting legislation. While the provisions included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act were a welcome first step, much more needs to be done to enable the construction of projects at the scale, speed, and certainty needed to meet the country's climate, energy and economic goals. Well-designed permitting reform will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions: it will catalyze investment, create well-paying jobs that benefit all Americans, and strengthen our national security by expanding domestic supply chains, production, and processing of critical materials for low- and zero-carbon technologies. We understand that this will not be easy, but we are committed to working with you and your colleagues to build consensus for meaningful and durable legislation.

We recommend that Congress focus on five key areas for permitting reform, including: community engagement, transmission, critical materials, pipelines, and ensuring appropriate timelines for review.

1. **Community engagement:** We believe that it is possible to accelerate permitting while maintaining the high environmental and social performance standards that have protected American communities, and preserving and even enhancing the ability of those communities to have a voice in matters that affect them. Early and regular community engagement in the environmental review process can help foster trust, increasing the likelihood of project success; regular consultation provides a forum that empowers communities to play a pivotal role in decision-making processes during project development. Effective community engagement is essential and should be considered during any revisions to the permitting process, including the key areas listed in this letter.
2. **Transmission:** Enhancing the reliability and resiliency of our nation's electric grid as well as realizing our nation's abundant clean energy potential will mean expanding transmission capacity across the country. Like other energy projects requiring federal authorization, permitting and siting new transmission projects in some parts of the country can take a decade or more to complete, impeding our ability to maintain our grid's reliability, meet consumer demand, and lead the world toward a low-carbon future. Congress should take steps to ensure that this process is completed in an efficient manner so that companies have the certainty they need to make investments in a clean, affordable, and reliable power grid. Planning and

coordination are key to the most effective and reliable transmission system at the lowest cost to customers.

3. **Critical and Strategic Minerals:** Our nation has vast mineral resources that are vital to the low-carbon economy and our national security. Safe, responsible development of these resources could boost production, processing, and recycling of critical materials, creating jobs and building a domestic supply chain for industries of the future. With some of the strongest environmental safeguards and employee and community protections in the world, the United States is well-placed to produce a clean, secure supply of materials that are critical to our economic and climate goals. Congress should work to support the development of robust and resilient domestic supply chains for critical materials.
4. **Pipelines and Storage Infrastructure:** Meeting our nation's climate goals requires robust new pipeline and storage networks to enable the transition to a decarbonized economy. Congress should act to accelerate pipeline deployments and prioritize clarification of siting and regulatory authorities for novel interstate low- and zero-emission product pipelines and related storage infrastructure, including Class VI well development.
5. **Ensuring appropriate timelines:** Finally, Congress should ensure appropriate timelines for permit review and subsequent judicial review. The Fiscal Responsibility Act added reasonable page and time limits to the environment review process, which we believe will be effective, but more needs to be done. Accessible judicial review is a cornerstone of a good permitting process, but current timelines for review and litigation often disincentivizes the investment we need to meet our long-term climate goals. Congress should work with urgency to reform the existing process, across a range of applicable agencies and regulations, and ensure timelines are appropriate but do not cause unnecessary delays on projects. Strict, but fair limits on legal challenges are essential components of modernizing our permitting processes.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and continued attention to meeting our country's climate, economic, and security goals. As you continue to discuss permitting reform with your colleagues, we encourage you to review the Center for Climate and Energy Solution's "[Reaching for 2030: Climate and Energy Priorities](#)," which provides additional information on these issues. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to build consensus for meaningful and durable permitting reform in the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

AECOM  
Berkshire Hathaway Energy  
BHP  
bp America  
DHL Group  
Dow, Inc.  
dsm-firmenich North America  
Duke Energy Corporation  
Eastman  
Edison International  
Equinor

Ford Motor Company  
GE Vernova  
Holcim US  
Honeywell International Inc.  
National Grid  
PG&E Corporation  
Schneider Electric North America  
Shell USA, Inc.  
Siemens Energy, Inc.  
Southern Company

CC:

Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate

Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives

Members of the Environment and Public Works Committee of the U.S. Senate

Members of the Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives

Members of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee of the U.S. Senate

Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives