

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Carper:

The undersigned groups strongly support S. 280, the “Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015,” and urge the Committee to report it favorably to the full Senate as soon as practicable. This critical piece of legislation would provide a streamlined process for developers to obtain environmental permits and approvals for their projects in a timely and efficient manner, allowing jobs to be created and the economy to grow.

Every year that major projects are stalled or cancelled because of a dysfunctional permitting process and a system that allows limitless challenges by opponents of development, millions of jobs are not created. For example, 351 stalled energy projects reviewed in one 2010 study had a total economic value of over \$1 trillion and represented 1.9 million American jobs that were not created.

The Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015 would improve the environmental review and permitting process by:

- Coordinating responsibilities among multiple agencies involved in environmental reviews to ensure that “the trains run on time;”
- Providing for concurrent reviews by agencies, rather than serial reviews;
- Allowing state-level environmental reviews to be used where the state has done a competent job, thereby avoiding needless duplication of state work by federal reviewers;
- Requiring that agencies involve themselves in the process early and comment early, avoiding eleventh-hour objections that can restart the entire review timetable;
- Establishing a reasonable process for determining the scope of project alternatives, so that the environmental review does not devolve into an endless quest to evaluate infeasible alternatives;
- Creating an online “dashboard” to track projects during the environmental review and permitting process; and
- Reducing the statute of limitations to challenge an environmental review under NEPA from six years to 150 days.

S. 280 is a practical, industry-wide approach that builds on successful provisions for environmental review management found in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

Act (MAP-21), Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and Section 1609 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015 also embodies the procedural improvements to the environmental review process repeatedly called for by the Obama administration.

This bill would address the problem far too many projects face today: lengthy project delays from endless environmental reviews and challenges resulting in lost opportunities to create jobs and grow the economy. Every year of delay results in millions of jobs not created. The creation of millions of jobs is worth ensuring that our government works faster and more efficiently.

The undersigned groups strongly support S. 280, the “Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015,” and encourage you to support this bill during the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee’s markup of this bill.

Sincerely,

Alabama

Alexander City Chamber of Commerce
Business Council of Alabama
Dothan Area Chamber
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce

Alaska

Alaska Chamber
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Arizona Mining Association
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Marana Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber
Tempe (AZ) Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber

Arkansas

Arkansas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (AIPRO)
Bryant Area Chamber of Commerce

California

Arroyo Grande & Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce
Associated California Loggers
Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties
Fullerton Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Hueneme (CA) Chamber of Commerce
Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce
North American Home Furnishings Association
Oxnard Chamber
Pacific-West Fastener Association
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce

Colorado

Associated Builders and Contractors, Rocky Mountain
Associated General Contractors of Colorado
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry (CACI)
Colorado Mining Association
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Grand Junction Colorado Area Chamber of Commerce
Western Energy Alliance

Connecticut

Bridgeport Regional Business Council
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

Delaware

Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Boca Chamber
Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Transportation Builders' Association
JAX Chamber
Miramar Pembroke Pines Regional Chamber of Commerce
Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce

Georgia

Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Idaho

Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry
Idaho Mining Association

Illinois

American Foundry Society
Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Geneva Chamber of Commerce
Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Partnership
Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce
Metals Service Center Institute
Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce
National Association of REALTORS®
National Roofing Contractors Association
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce

Illinois/Iowa

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Avon Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Cast Metals Association
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Coal Council, Inc.
Indiana Manufacturers Association
Wabash County Chamber of Commerce

Iowa

Ames Chamber of Commerce

Iowa Association of Business and Industry

Kansas

Wichita Independent Business Association

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington Inc.

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Kyndle

Meade County Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana Association of Business and Industry

Louisiana Landowners Association

Maine

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber

Harford County Chamber of Commerce

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association (MAPDA)

Massachusetts

Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Independent Oil Marketers Association of New England (IOMA)

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

MetroWest Chamber of Commerce

The United Regional Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Associated General Contractors of Michigan

Associated Wire Rope Fabricators

Detroit Regional Chamber

Foundry Association of Michigan

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

Greater Brighton Chamber of Commerce

Michigan Association of Timbermen

Minnesota

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce

Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Monroe County (MS) Chamber of Commerce

Missouri

American Soybean Association
Associated General Contractors of Missouri
Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Home Builders Association of Greater Springfield
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Missouri Realtors
North American Equipment Dealers Association
St. Louis Regional Chamber

Montana

Billings Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Contractors' Association
Montana Manufacturing Council

Nebraska

Greater Omaha Chamber
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Nevada

Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Reno, Sparks, and Northern Nevada

New Jersey

Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey
Morris County Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Business & Industry Association
New Jersey Motor Truck Association
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
Newark Regional Business Partnership

New Mexico

New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

New York

Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Food Industry Alliance of New York State
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

North Country Chamber of Commerce
Northeastern Retail Lumber Association
Rochester Business Alliance
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.

North Carolina

Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
North Carolina Chamber
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

North Dakota

Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce
North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC)

Ohio

Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Flexible Pavements of Ohio
Industrial Fasteners Institute
Licking County Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Cast Metals Association
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Gas Processors Association
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Associated Oregon Industries (AOI)
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.
Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce
Klamath County Chamber of Commerce
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce

Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC
Hatfield Chamber of Commerce
Lehigh Valley Builders Association
NUCA of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Pennsylvania Foundry Association
Perry County Chamber of Commerce
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County PA Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Rhode Island

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
Northern Rhode Island Chamber
Rhode Island Chapter of Associated Builders & Contractors

South Carolina

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, CVB
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Timber Producers Association

Tennessee

Blount County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tennessee Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
Johnson City Chamber of Commerce
Kingsport Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Texas

American Loggers Council
Baytown Chamber of Commerce
East Parker County Chamber of Commerce
Electronic Security Association (ESA)
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Frisco Chamber of Commerce
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce
Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce
International Association of Drilling Contractors
Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Plano Chamber of Commerce
South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce
Texas Association of Business
Texas Cast Metals Association
The Longview Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Salt Lake Chamber

Virginia

ACCA - The Indoor Environment & Energy Efficiency Association
American Feed Industry Association
American Public Power Association
American Subcontractors Association, Inc.
American Trucking Associations
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Associated General Contractors of America
Brick Industry Association
Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.
International Association for Cold Storage Construction
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
National Apartment Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
The Aluminum Association
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Washington

American Exploration & Mining Association
Association of Washington Business
Economic Alliance Snohomish County
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce
Washington Retail Association
Washington Trucking Associations

Washington, D.C.

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute
American Forest & Paper Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Highway Users Alliance
American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Association of American Railroads
Independent Bakers Association
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
Institute of Makers of Explosives
International Franchise Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Neighborhoods
National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Council of Textile Organizations
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Mining Association
National Multifamily Housing Council
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association (NRCMA)
Treated Wood Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia

The Summersville Area Chamber of Commerce
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
West Virginia Oil Marketers and Grocers Association (OMEGA)
West Virginia Trucking Association

Wisconsin

Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
Greater Green Bay Chamber
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Cast Metals Association
Wisconsin Grocers Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming Stock Growers Association

cc: Members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs