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August 13, 2024

Chairman Joe Manchin  
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member John Barrasso  
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: AGC Support for S. 4753, the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024**

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) – the leading association in the construction industry representing more than 27,000 firms, including America’s leading general contractors, specialty-contracting firms, service providers, and suppliers – I write in support of S. 4753, the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024, which would reform the permitting and judicial review process for energy construction projects.

The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 includes many measures that will expedite timelines for permitting decisions and limit lawsuits once permits have been issued on energy construction projects. This legislation will help curtail frivolous lawsuits, often intended to delay or cancel construction projects, by establishing a 150-day statute of limitations for judicial review of an energy project’s authorization. It will also require courts to expedite reviews on civil actions to ensure that construction projects are not put on hold for months, if not years, on end.

The bill will also ease permitting decisions by eliminating duplicative permitting requirements and create categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for certain activities relating to the electric grid, including some construction activities. While it is unfortunate that the White House Council on Environmental Quality continues to look for ways to further complicate the permitting process, this bill will help ensure energy projects are not mired in delays.

Our nation faces many challenges that require the delivery of timely infrastructure projects to help address them. But waiting years just for a federal environmental review or permitting decision, let alone the beginning of construction, needlessly delays these projects. AGC thanks Senators Manchin and Barrasso for their commitment to working together to find bipartisan solutions to address these permitting delays.

Sincerely,

Alex Etchen  
Vice President, Government Relations