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September 22, 2025

Chairman Bruce Westerman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Jared Huffman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

RE: AGC Support for H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act)

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) – the leading association in the construction industry representing more than 28,000 firms, including America’s leading general contractors, specialty-contracting firms, service providers, and suppliers – I write in support of H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, which would reform the permitting and judicial review of projects under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Project delays caused by prolonged NEPA reviews, permitting, and litigation increase costs and harm the construction workforce by delaying job creation, disrupting hiring, and reducing economic activity. The delays increase labor and material costs, forcing contractors to reprice projects and potentially leading to cost overruns. When projects stall, construction firms delay hiring or lay off workers, creating uncertainty for skilled tradespeople and harming local economies. Delayed infrastructure projects slow down economic growth, particularly in regions where construction drives local economies. According to industry studies, every \$1 billion spent on infrastructure supports roughly 13,000 direct and indirect jobs across various sectors. Finally, late-stage NEPA lawsuits halt projects that have already undergone years of environmental review.

The SPEED Act will clarify and streamline various aspects of NEPA, ultimately expediting the delivery of critical construction nationwide. The bill reestablishes NEPA as a procedural statute and ensures that the NEPA permitting processes fall within its intended statute as opposed to mandating “particular results.” The bill will also curtail frivolous lawsuits, often intended to delay or cancel construction projects, through establishing a 150-day statute of limitations for judicial review for filing claims. It restricts court standing to parties who have commented on an environmental review prior to the NEPA decision, limiting outside parties from filing sue-and-settle lawsuits that are designed to stifle development nationwide.

Our nation faces many challenges that require the delivery of timely infrastructure and other construction projects to help address them. The Supreme Court’s decision in the *Seven County* case was an excellent first step towards making that possible and passage of the SPEED Act would build on that progress. Thank you to Representatives Westerman and Golden for their commitment to working together to find bipartisan solutions to address permitting delays and please feel free to reach out to AGC for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Etchen".

Alex Etchen
Vice President, Government Relations