

April 29, 2023

Dear Senator _____:

As a member of the utility construction industry in our community, I am writing to ask you to support decisive action on permitting reform for infrastructure projects. The National Utility Contractors Association and many other groups strongly support passage of H.R. 1, which would overhaul and streamline outdated permitting processes that are holding our country back. Under current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, critical infrastructure projects can often take years, or even more than a decade, to finally be approved.

The crucial permitting reforms that H.R. 1 proposes - including better-defined timelines, guardrails for legal challenges, and much-needed updates to NEPA - will accelerate the construction of vital utility infrastructure projects that my company is building.

Costly delays and uncertainty around these projects' futures hurts everyone and helps no one except those who don't wish to see the project built. Crucially, the reforms presented in H.R. 1 preserve the right to provide community input or challenge a project, while also setting strict guardrails to ensure that the process is not abused and that environmental protection is still prioritized. We can have both world-class infrastructure and protections for clean air and water--and I believe H.R. 1 is the bill to achieve those goals.

Many of the long-awaited projects set to be funded by the recent historic federal investments in water, broadband, electric utilities, and energy infrastructure – including renewable energy – will be in danger if no action is taken. We cannot afford to waste this opportunity to rebuild America's underground infrastructure.

When H.R. 1 comes to the floor, I ask you to vote YES and help move forward the conversation around permitting reform. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Member of the National Utility Contractors Association