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The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2253 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (“AFPM”) proudly represents the U.S. refining and petrochemical industries. Our members support 3.5 million U.S. jobs, and have been investing billions of dollars in the midstream sector by building, expanding, and modernizing the energy infrastructure network needed to safely and efficiently move and store increasing volumes of America’s energy resources.

AFPM supports robust analyses of infrastructure projects to ensure that environmental impacts are appropriately considered. However, the current federal review process is broken and in need of reform. It is now common for pre-construction reviews to take at least five years, with the inevitable litigation adding many more years, cost, and uncertainty. This is not what Congress intended when it enacted our environmental review laws.

Thus, as the House of Representatives moves forward with floor consideration of H.R. 2, the “Moving Forward Act”, we urge you to pursue bipartisan dialogue on improving and streamlining environmental review and permitting of linear infrastructure projects. Permitting reform should strive to improve the transparency, accountability, and timeliness of reviews and to eliminate duplicative actions, which in turn will reduce uncertainties and costs.

We strongly support a bipartisan and bicameral commitment to environmental permit reform as Congress proceeds with infrastructure legislation. Done correctly, permitting reform can both ensure environmental protection and foster the infrastructure projects and jobs that are critical to our nation’s recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Sincerely,

Chet Thompson
President and CEO