

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Crawford
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials
United State House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Members Graves and Crawford:

As the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Committee) gathers to consider surface transportation infrastructure legislation, we urge you and members of the Committee to include provisions that will reduce unnecessary permitting delays standing in the way of putting America back to work.

As you noted this spring, "[I]nfrastructure always has been and always will be the backbone of our economy. Congress can help provide a strong economic recovery and a strong economic future by working in partnership – not partisanship – to address America's infrastructure needs." Efficient reviews for project decisionmaking will help bring that economic recovery to America sooner.

No one can reasonably agree that federal review of proposed infrastructure projects should take five or ten or more years to complete. Streamlining of federal permitting can be a bipartisan issue. As you know, five years ago President Obama signed the bipartisan Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act with over 20 pages of highly detailed procedural rules for federal agencies to follow in issuing permits for major infrastructure projects.

Congress can take further steps to make project permitting more efficient and predictable. Language you propose for efficient environmental reviews for project decisionmaking will set reasonable requirements for the vast majority of projects that ensure both fulsome and timely reviews and allow for more expansive requirements when appropriate.

While the Committee will focus its markup primarily on surface transportation, permitting provisions of prior surface reauthorizations applied to infrastructure projects broadly, including pipeline projects. We urge the Committee again to benefit infrastructure projects broadly through reforms that will help put America back to work.

Sincerely,

American Gas Association
American Public Gas Association
Association of Oil Pipe Lines
GPA Midstream Association
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America