



December 10, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), I write to encourage the House and Senate to capitalize on recent momentum and pass comprehensive permitting reform legislation before the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourns. CRES is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting conservative solutions to address our nation's energy, economic and environmental security while ensuring America retains its global competitive edge.

CRES supports an all-of-the-above approach to energy with the goal of lowering energy prices, increasing energy security, accelerating innovation, and reducing global emissions – not reducing energy choices. Fortunately, private sector innovation, American resources, and research & development investment have resulted in efficient, reliable, and affordable energy, placing the United States as the global leader in reducing emissions.

However, our broken permitting system is jeopardizing our ability to deploy innovative technologies, meet growing energy demand, and build new infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities that promote American energy independence. This lack of action is leading to reduced economic opportunity for American families and higher global emissions as production is increasingly coming from adversarial nations, such as China and Russia.

In 2023, Congress worked in a bipartisan fashion to pass the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*, a bill that reined in federal spending, averted a government default, and enacted modest steps to reform our broken permitting system. While CRES supported this deal, more reforms are still needed. America needs comprehensive permitting reform to unleash America's potential as an energy superpower.

When the House passed H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*, with bipartisan support in March 2023, CRES was hopeful the Senate would act so our nation can unleash domestic resources and break the permitting logjam that is holding us back. Yet twenty months later, our nation's economic growth and prosperity is still hamstrung by onerous regulations, serial litigation, and broken federal permitting process. To put it simply, if we are to address high energy prices that are hurting American families and re-establish America as a global energy and manufacturing



leader, we cannot wait any longer for meaningful permitting reforms and action. The time to act is now.

In recent months, Congressional committees in both chambers held hearings to discuss the urgent need for permitting reform. In July, the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee reported out S. 4753, the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024*, with a bipartisan vote of 15 to 4. In September, the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on legislation to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act, during which I testified that the current permitting system is inconsistent with the environmental benefits of the advancement of clean energy. We encourage you to build on the conversations being held within the House and Senate in order to forge a path that will result in a meaningful comprehensive permitting reform bill reaching the President's desk by the end of this Congress.

Please consider us partners in reforming our broken permitting system in a way that allows America to accelerate the deployment of critical infrastructure, energy, and resources necessary to unlock American prosperity. It's time for America to build again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Reams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Reams  
CRES President