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September 25, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

***Re: Manufacturers Support H.R. 4776, the “Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act”***

Dear Chairman Westerman:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we support H.R. 4776, the “Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act,” which would amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process.

On September 8, 2025 IECA, along with 71 other manufacturing organizations from across the country, sent a letter to House and Senate leadership urging them to pass energy permitting reform legislation this year.<sup>1</sup> The letter highlights the need for increased natural gas pipeline capacity. Manufacturing processes that use natural gas do not have an alternative. Even if they could switch to electricity, a Btu of electricity is more than 300 percent more expensive than a Btu of natural gas.

When there is inadequate pipeline capacity, the manufacturing sector is the first to be curtailed. Homeowners, electric generators, and LNG export terminals get the natural gas and we do not. When we are curtailed, it is at great costs and disruption to supply chains.

One hundred percent of IECA member companies are manufacturers, of which approximately 98 percent are energy-intensive trade-exposed. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries which include chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases,

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<sup>1</sup> IECA and 71 Manufacturing Organizations Urge Congress to Pass Energy Permitting Legislation This Year, [https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/09.08.25\\_Letter-to-Congressional-Leadership\\_Support-Energy-Permitting-Reform-Legislation\\_FINAL-2.pdf](https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/09.08.25_Letter-to-Congressional-Leadership_Support-Energy-Permitting-Reform-Legislation_FINAL-2.pdf)

pharmaceutical, consumer products, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

*Paul N. Cicio*

President & CEO

cc: House Committee on Natural Resources