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October 27, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, I write in support of H.R. 4776, the *Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act*. This legislation would establish guidelines to expedite environmental reviews under the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA). In so doing, the *SPEED Act* will help reduce red tape, permitting burdens, and energy costs for small businesses.

Since the passage of NEPA, the permitting process has become a bureaucratic nightmare. The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board recently expounded on this problem, noting that it takes on average "an incredible 29 years to develop a mine in the U.S., the second longest in the world after Zambia."<sup>1</sup> This slow process delays and cancels potential projects and development in every industry, resulting in long-term negative impacts on U.S. economic growth. Small businesses understand this bureaucratic process is not sustainable. In a recent NFIB member ballot, 88% of NFIB members supported Congress streamlining regulations on the production and transportation of energy sources.<sup>2</sup>

Thankfully, there is bipartisan interest in addressing these bureaucratic delays and challenges. The *SPEED Act* is one example of legislation that would expedite lengthy NEPA reviews and limit frivolous lawsuits that can delay or cancel critical projects.

NFIB is proud to support H.R. 4776, and thanks Chairman Westerman and Rep. Golden for their leadership on this important issue. NFIB urges Congress to enact reforms that will reduce the cost of energy for small business owners. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Bertolotti".

Louis A. Bertolotti  
Principal, Federal Government Relations  
NFIB

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<sup>1</sup> Editorial Board, *Wall Street Journal*. April 27, 2025. "A Copper Minefield of Obstruction." <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/arizona-resolution-copper-mine-nepa-ninth-circuit-donald-trump-cf3c9e48>.

<sup>2</sup> NFIB Member Ballot, Mandate, vol. 582., March 2023, *Should Congress streamline regulations to facilitate the production and transport of oil, natural gas, and other energy sources in the United States?* (Yes: 88% No: 6% Undecided: 6%)