



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

The Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) applauds your leadership in holding today's hearing on "Improving the Federal Environmental Review and Permitting Processes." WAC represents a large and diverse cross-section of the nation's broad business community, including the construction, transportation, real estate, recreation, mining, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, energy, wildlife conservation, and public health and safety sectors. Our members are vital to building a thriving national economy and are essential to achieving the nation's critical infrastructure, manufacturing, supply chain, transportation, and energy goals.

Our members operate their businesses in compliance with a comprehensive framework of federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. They regularly obtain a wide range of federal environmental permits, including Clean Water Act (CWA) permits. These include dredge and fill permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under CWA section 404 and discharge permits from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state permitting authorities under CWA section 402. Many of our members also conduct activities under the Corps' Nationwide Permit program, which provides an important option to expedite projects that have lower environmental impact.

For many of our members, CWA permitting can be a major hurdle in moving essential projects forward efficiently. We therefore have a significant interest in the Committee's work to address how to improve the federal environmental review and permitting processes. We appreciate the Committee's work to address these challenges and ensure that essential projects are not hindered by bureaucratic delays or uncertainties, while supporting the CWA's cooperative federalism framework, environmental protection, and the need for a more streamlined, predictable regulatory framework.

We look forward to working with you to identify opportunities for targeted reforms that will help achieve our nation's ambitious national priorities and support the communities that depend on these projects.

Sincerely,

American Exploration & Mining Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Gas Association  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
American Road and Transportation Builders Association

Golf Course Superintendents of America  
Independent Petroleum Association of America  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Realtors  
National Club Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
USA Rice  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

American Road and Transportation Builders Association  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Leading Builders of America  
Liquid Energy Pipeline Association  
National Club Association  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Realtors  
National Mining Association  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel  
Association The Fertilizer Institute  
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association

cc: Members of the Committee on Environment and Public Works