

November 5, 2025

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Oppose Permitting Reform Efforts in the 119th Congress

Dear Minority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries and Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate:

On behalf of our organizations and the millions of members and supporters we represent, we urge you to reject any “permitting reform” legislation for the remainder of the 119th Congress.

Efforts to pass permitting reform or elements of the so-called “Abundance Agenda” during the 119th Congress would hand control of the clean energy transition to those openly hostile to climate action. Bankrolled by the fossil fuel industry, congressional Republicans have worked to undermine the very foundations of environmental protection and democracy. Their recent willingness to engage with Democrats on permitting reform does not change their decades-long goal of dismantling bedrock environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act to fast-track drilling, mining, and logging and pad the profits of their corporate benefactors. **To negotiate with Republicans as they seek to silence communities, strip away democratic oversight, and accelerate environmental destruction is not pragmatism, but capitulation.**

Further, even if Congress were to successfully pass a bipartisan permitting reform bill, President Trump has shown he has no qualms about defying Congress and the law if it serves his interests. One need look no further than his recent attacks against the wind and solar industry to know that his administration would simply ignore or obstruct any legislative mandate that accelerates the clean energy transition, despite the demonstrable benefits of renewable energy in improving affordability relative to the fossil-fueled rate increases currently burdening American households.

For example, in the last ten months President Trump and the Republican Party have:

- Illegally [impounded](#) millions of dollars in clean energy funding;
- Passed a budget [bill](#) that opened vast swaths of public land to extraction and mandates 4 million acres for coal, 20 million acres for Arctic oil and gas, and hundreds of millions more acres for leases across the West and offshore;
- Appointed and confirmed the [most anti-climate cabinet](#) in history;
- Fired nearly [400](#) federal climate scientists, [withdrew](#) from the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, and removed [all](#) prior Climate Assessments from federal websites, effectively erasing public access to key climate data;
- Cancelled, rescinded, and delayed [wind](#) and [solar](#) projects;
- [Gutted](#) federal agencies responsible for climate science, public health and safety;
- [Repealed](#) CEQ’s NEPA regulations, eliminating most notice-and-comment opportunities, weakening public oversight, and hollowing out the law.

This abysmal track record makes clear that Republicans' willingness to engage on permitting reform is nothing more than a smokescreen to gut environmental protections, enrich fossil fuels, and stall renewable energy.

The purported choice between meeting our energy needs and safeguarding our environment is a false one. Our groups believe there is a way forward on permitting reform that would proactively protect wild places and prioritize equity, ratepayer affordability, and American leadership — such as through enacting the A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act. However, working with Republicans and an administration that have made their allegiance to fossil fuels clear will not accelerate the clean energy transition—it will sabotage it. Thus, we urge you to reject any permitting reform efforts for the remainder of the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

198 methods
350 Bay Area Action
350Hawaii
7 Directions of Service
Ballona Wetlands Institute
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)
Bold Alliance
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Justice Alliance
Coastal Lands Action Network (CLAN)
Defend Ballona Wetlands
Demand Progress
Earthworks
Food and Water Watch
Fridays for Future USA
Friends of the Earth Action
Georgia Conservation Voters
GreenLatinos
Hip Hop Caucus
Inland Ocean Coalition
Kahtoola
Kettle Range Conservation Group
Los Padres ForestWatch
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Next 100 Coalition
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean Defense Initiative
Oil Change International

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Project Eleven Hundred
Santa Fe Forest Coalition
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
Scenic America
Stand.earth
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Western Environmental Law Center
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates
Zero Hour