



## What They Are Saying: H.R. 4776, The SPEED Act

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Sept. 12, 2025  
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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Recently, House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and U.S. Rep. Jared Golden (D-Maine) introduced the bipartisan Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. Organizations, officials and a wide variety of industry leaders from across the

country have voiced their support for the legislation that will create certainty in the permitting process and spur domestic investment in critical infrastructure, energy and conservation projects. Here is what leaders in the agriculture, outdoor and forestry industries are saying:

*"The American Forest & Paper Association has long applauded Congressional and EPA efforts to streamline permitting processes that will bolster American manufacturing competitiveness. We appreciate Representatives Bruce Westerman and Jared Golden in their commitment to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act's permitting process."* – **American Forest & Paper Association**

*"As Chairman of the Colorado Conservation Alliance (the Alliance), I write in strong support of the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act) improvements to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. The quick action taken by sponsors of this proposed amendment following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado case is commendable. Additionally, and speaking also as owner of an energy company with over 40 years of operation and offices in four states, I support the SPEED Act's needed tightening of scope and clarification on conditions for NEPA review."* – **Michael J. Clark, chairman, Colorado Conservation Alliance**

*"The SPEED Act provides much-needed reforms to streamline the NEPA process and reduce unnecessary litigation that has delayed critical Western water supply and infrastructure projects for years. This legislation will help farmers, ranchers, and rural communities to move forward with projects that enhance their ability to remain productive and competitive. We strongly support this common-sense approach to advancing water supply enhancement and other essential projects."* – **Dan Keppen, executive director, Family Farm Alliance**

*"The Forest Landowners Association supports the SPEED Act as a necessary step toward modernizing the NEPA process without compromising the private property rights of family forest landowners. While NEPA was intended to guide responsible environmental decision-making, it has too often delayed forest management, conservation work, and business development on private lands when federal permits or funding are involved. It has also hindered proactive management of public lands, including wildfire mitigation efforts that are critical for safeguarding adjacent landowners and surrounding communities. By streamlining reviews, clarifying when NEPA applies, and reducing excessive litigation, the SPEED Act helps ensure private forest landowners can continue to manage their land efficiently, protect their rights, and contribute to healthier forests and stronger rural economies. Thank you for championing this balanced and practical reform. We look forward to working with you on more ways to provide certainty for our nation's private forest landowners so they can continue to provide the economic and environmental benefits we depend on."* – **Craig Anderson, vice president of government affairs, Forest Landowners Association**

*"The Forest Resources Association supports Chairman Bruce Westerman's and Congressman Jared Golden's SPEED Act of 2025 as a pragmatic and long-overdue modernization of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For the forestry sector, this legislation presents a critical opportunity to streamline permitting for forest management, wildfire mitigation, and infrastructure projects that support rural economies and enhance ecological resilience. For too long, excessive regulatory hurdles have delayed forest management projects, creating uncertainty in timber supply and contributing to mill closures across rural America. These disruptions have had profound economic consequences for communities that depend on a stable forest sector. It's time to restore efficiency, predictability, and progress."* – **Tim O'Hara, president, Forest Resources Association**

*"PLC, NCBA, ASI, and ANG appreciate this effort championed by Chairman Westerman and Congressman Golden and would greatly appreciate the Committee's consideration of this legislation. We wholeheartedly support the passage of this legislation and encourage swift action to move it forward. Its enactment will strengthen rural communities while ensuring that America's livestock producers can continue their essential role as stewards of our nation's natural resources and landscapes. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your support for meaningful NEPA reform and for your consideration of this legislation."* – **Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, American Sheep Industry Association and Association of National Grasslands**

*"While NEPA's effects on forest restoration stand out, other conservation efforts have likewise been obstructed, including water conservation in Arizona, bison reintroduction in Montana's Great Plains, and renewable energy development in Oregon. Codifying and building on the Supreme Court's decision in *Seven County*, the SPEED Act would return NEPA to its original intent and ensure the environmental review process is up to solving modern environmental challenges."* – **Property and Environment Research Center**

*"One of the top problems we face as we work with our land management partners is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Protecting critical resources and the sustainability of our public lands is of utmost importance to us, however, NEPA has strayed far from that goal. Instead, it has become an unworkable morass of expensive and time-consuming red-tape, paperwork and surveys to the point where it takes years to complete and is many times obsolete by the time it is completed. This is to the detriment of the environment as work that would relocate problematic trails or fix drainage issues simply cannot be done because of the impossible NEPA process. At our core, we believe in collaboration, education, and keeping trails open for everyone who values them. Your bill, the SPEED Act, would accomplish a great deal towards that endeavor."* – **Chad Hixon, executive director, Trails Preservation Alliance**

*"On behalf of the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA), we appreciate and*

*applaud Chairman Bruce Westerman and Congressman Jared Golden for introducing the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act."* – **Mark Niemeyer, president, Western Fire Chiefs Association**