September 9, 2022

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

The permitting and public notice and comment provisions mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are among the only tools local communities have to force careful review of federal projects that may have serious, long-term, environmental, and public health consequences in those communities. Congress should continue to provide increased funding to assist federal agencies in completing the NEPA process but attempts to short-circuit or undermine the law in the name of “reform” must be opposed.

According to media reports, there is agreement to advance a series of anti-environmental and anti-environmental justice provisions through the House, at the behest of the American Petroleum Institute (API). These destructive provisions will allow polluting manufacturing and energy development projects to be rushed through before the families who are forced to live near them are even aware of the plans.

The proposed legislation would restrict public access to the courts to seek remedies against illegal project development; place arbitrary limits on the amount of time the public is given to comment on polluting projects; and curtail public input, environmental review, and government accountability. Additionally, the API plan would require a certain number of harmful fossil fuel projects to be designated as “projects of strategic national importance” to receive priority federal support, assistance, and expedited environmental review. These permitting “reforms” would weaken other important public health protections, including the Clean Water Act and more.

We remain deeply concerned that these serious and detrimental permitting provisions will significantly and disproportionately impact low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color. The inclusion of these provisions in a continuing resolution, or any other must-pass legislation, would silence the voices of frontline and environmental justice communities by insulating them from scrutiny. Such a move would force Members to choose between protecting EJ communities from further pollution or funding the government.

We urge you to ensure that these provisions are kept out of a continuing resolution or any other must-pass legislation this year.

http://naturalresources.house.gov
Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources

Alan Lowenthal  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

Katie Porter  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Ed Case  
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Melanie A. Stansbury  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

Joe Neguse  
Chair  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez  
Chair  
Committee on Small Business

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Michael F. Q. San Nicolas  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chair  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Mark Takano  
Chair  
Committee on Veterans Affairs

/s/ Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Chair  
Committee on Education and Labor

John Yarmuth  
Chair  
Committee on the Budget

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary

Maxine Waters  
Chair  
Committee on Financial Services

Adam Smith  
Chair  
Committee on Armed Services

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chair  
Committee on Homeland Security

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Andrew “Andy” Levin
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Cori Bush
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Shontel Brown
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/ André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/ John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

/s/ Hank Johnson
Member of Congress