

September 7, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As you know, building clean infrastructure provides significant economic, national security, climate, and quality-of-life benefits. These benefits are not realized, however, until the infrastructure is built. Unfortunately, the permitting and siting of projects have become burdensome, onerous, and inefficient, with environmental reviews alone taking many years, if not more than a decade, to complete. This increases costs, decreases overall investment, delays the economic and environmental benefits of cleaner infrastructure, and decreases energy affordability and reliability.

Congress should take steps this year to reform the environmental review and permitting process. The United States maintains high environmental standards, and we are not advocating for lowering our standards. However, we support making project approvals more efficient, predictable, and coordinated. Commonsense reforms can increase transparency and accountability and ensure best practices are used while reducing duplication of effort and bureaucratic friction. Without progress on this front, net-zero emissions by 2050 will not be in reach.

Luckily, there is bipartisan agreement on the need to improve permitting. We stand ready to work with you to help design an efficient permitting system that protects the environment, ensures early, meaningful, and just engagement with local communities, and allows the United States to deploy infrastructure quickly.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of help as you consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

American Clean Power
The Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Program
BPC Action
Breakthrough Institute