



American
Petroleum
Institute



July 28, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Chairman Lee and Ranking Members Whitehouse and Heinrich,

On behalf of the companies that produce, transport, and deliver natural gas across the nation, the Natural Gas Council urges Congress to enact durable permitting reforms that provide the predictability needed to develop America's critical energy infrastructure.

Reliable energy infrastructure is foundational to America's economic strength, energy security, and global competitiveness. Natural gas infrastructure supports affordable energy, strengthens domestic manufacturing, enables U.S. energy exports, enhances electric reliability, and provides the dependable foundation needed to accommodate rising energy demand.

Increased electricity consumption, the expansion of artificial intelligence and data centers, the resurgence of domestic manufacturing, and population growth are reshaping the U.S. energy landscape. Notably, the Energy Information Administration's 2026 [Annual Energy Outlook](#) projects that total U.S. electricity generation will increase by 25 to 50 percent by 2050. It also projects [natural gas use](#) in the electric power sector will grow more than in any other end-use sector, rising from 35.2 Bcf/d in 2025 to as much as 50.4 Bcf/d by 2050. Meeting this growth will require continued investment in natural gas production, transportation, and delivery infrastructure that reliably and affordably serves homes, businesses, manufacturers, and electric generators.

Despite this outlook, federal permitting remains needlessly lengthy, unpredictable, and vulnerable to duplicative reviews and prolonged litigation. While Congress has taken meaningful steps to improve the process, additional statutory reforms are necessary to support long-term infrastructure investment while preserving strong environmental protections.

Our nation's energy needs continue to grow and now is the time for Congress to act.

Congress should reform Section 401 of the Clean Water Act to ensure certification reviews remain focused on water quality impacts, are completed within established statutory timelines, and are implemented consistently across federal agencies. Preserving and strengthening the Nationwide Permit program is likewise essential to facilitating the construction, maintenance, modernization, replacement, and safe operation of critical energy infrastructure.

Additionally, Congress should improve implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by reinforcing lead agency authority, strengthening interagency coordination, focusing environmental reviews on reasonably foreseeable effects, and promoting disciplined project schedules. The Supreme Court's decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County* provided important guidance regarding the appropriate scope of NEPA review. Codifying these principles would promote greater consistency across administrations while maintaining robust environmental review.

Equally important, Congress should establish more predictable procedures for judicial review of federal permits. Reasonable timelines for legal challenges and making remand – not vacatur – the default remedy would reduce unnecessary project delays while preserving meaningful public participation. These reforms would help ensure that projects completing thorough environmental review can proceed without years of additional uncertainty.

Congress should build on the current bipartisan momentum surrounding permitting reform by enacting durable legislation this Congress.

The Natural Gas Council and the companies we represent stand ready to work with you on a bipartisan basis to advance these important objectives.

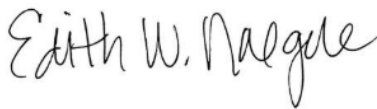
Sincerely,



Karen Harbert
President & CEO
American Gas Association



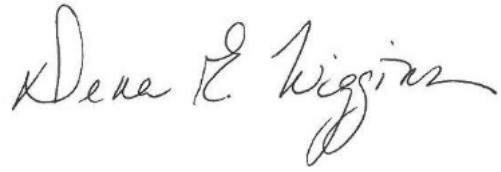
Mike Sommers
President & CEO
American Petroleum Institute



Edith Naegele
President & CEO
Independent Petroleum Association of America



Amy Andryszak
President & CEO
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dena E. Wiggins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dena" being the most prominent.

Dena Wiggins
President & CEO
Natural Gas Supply Association

CC: Majority Leader John Thune
Minority Leader Chuck Schumer