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What They Are Saying: Support for CEQ's Proposal to Modernize its NEPA Regulations

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Members of Congress

Senate

Chairman John Barrasso, (WY), Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works: “The Trump administration is taking common sense steps to make the National Environmental Policy Act work better for the American people. Too often, important projects are slowed down because of lengthy permitting processes and litigation. President Trump has set a goal of completing environmental reviews for construction projects within two years. This proposal establishes that standard. These updates will reduce red tape so important infrastructure projects get done better, faster, cheaper, and smarter. Road and bridge safety projects that take months to build should not take years to permit. These regulatory updates promote safety and still protect America’s air, water, and communities. . . .I included similar provisions in America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act, which passed the Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously, last year. I will continue to work with the White House to advance policies that protect our environment and allow our economy to grow.”

Chairman Lisa Murkowski, (AK), Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: “While I am still reviewing the details of this proposal, antiquated federal regulations often stand in the way of critical infrastructure and other important projects that can create jobs, improve our standard of living and energy security, and yet still fully protect the environment,” Murkowski said. “The President and his advisers deserve credit for leading the charge to bring our 1970s-era permitting processes into the 21st century.”

Senator Dan Sullivan, (AK): “Because of our broken public works and environmental approval process, our country’s infrastructure is in serious disrepair. Our bridges, our water mains, our transportation corridors, our energy grid—the very foundations of our country—are crumbling. Reform is desperately needed and I applaud the Trump administration’s proposed rule to modernize our NEPA regulations to provide more certainty and consistency during the permitting process. The administration’s proposal in many significant ways parallels a title of the Rebuild America Now (RAN) Act, a bill that I introduced which would set realistic deadlines for NEPA reviews, simplify NEPA documents, and streamline the NEPA process—all of which would help us build vital infrastructure projects faster as well as create jobs for the hardworking men and women who build our country. As the Trump administration proposal is being considered, I’ll continue to work on the RAN Act and support other reasonable reforms both through regulations and legislation.”

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Senator Kevin Cramer, (ND): “Thank you to President Trump and Administration leaders for taking another step to increase government efficiency and decrease bureaucratic delay. Since it became law over 40 years ago, the NEPA process has grown increasingly complicated and unnecessarily burdensome. I urge our stakeholders and all interested citizens to engage in the rulemaking process to make sure NEPA is modernized in a way that works for the American people.”

House of Representatives

House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, (CA-23): “Since NEPA was first enacted fifty years ago, it has been manipulated by anti-development groups and other special interests in order to delay or block projects and stifle progress. The commonsense reforms proposed by the CEQ today are expected to improve the efficiency and timeliness of NEPA reviews to allow projects to advance, while also preserving NEPA’s underlying purpose to ‘encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment’ (Public Law 91-190). I commend President Trump and CEQ Chairwoman Mary Neumayr for taking this important step towards updating the NEPA process to fit today’s modern world.”

House Republican Whip Steve Scalise, (LA-01): “I applaud the Trump Administration’s update to the NEPA review process, which will cut down on bureaucratic red-tape hindering national and local projects. Through a more efficient and less complex permitting process, we can more efficiently construct energy infrastructure, coastal restoration, and flood protection projects in Louisiana and across the country while still protecting our environment. While Democrats propose new job killing legislative proposals, this announcement is a strong step in the right direction and will result in more shovels in the ground on projects that improve Americans’ everyday lives.”

Ranking Member Rob Bishop, (UT-01), House Committee on Natural Resources: “There has been nothing more detrimental to the development of transportation, clean water, and energy infrastructure than America’s broken environmental review and permitting process. Today, the Administration took another step forward in bringing logic and rationality to the federal bureaucracy. Reducing redundancies, enhancing coordination with states and tribes, clarifying ambiguous terms, and establishing time frames for the completion of paperwork is the 20/20 vision we needed. Fringe-left special interest groups will continue to scream bloody murder, but these actions by President Trump will ensure the government works better for all.”

Ranking Member Sam Graves, (MO-06), House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: “The President is a builder. He knows firsthand how slow, inefficient, and costly the federal review and permitting processes can be for projects both large and small. I applaud the Administration for its efforts to modernize the NEPA process and inject some common sense into environmental reviews. Streamlining the review of proposed roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure projects will save the taxpayers money while maintaining necessary protections for the environment, public safety, and human health. I look forward to seeing this long overdue modernization of the NEPA regulations move forward.”

Ranking Member Greg Walden, (OR-02), House Committee on Energy and Commerce: “I applaud CEQ for continuing the Trump Administration’s efforts to implement needed streamlining to the NEPA planning processes across federal agencies. These efforts will help ensure we can implement forest management projects to reduce the threat of wildfire on our communities and improve our nation’s transportation and energy infrastructure to meet our needs into the future. Modernizing this process is long overdue and is welcome news for rural Oregon.”

Congressman Ralph Abraham, (LA-05): “This is big news for the hard-working men and women who grow our food, manage our forests, build our infrastructure, and produce our energy. NEPA is important for protecting the environment, but its approval process has become a bureaucratic nightmare over the years – even for the smallest projects. These steps by President Trump to streamline the NEPA process will ensure that we continue to protect the environment without hamstringing projects which benefit the American people.”

Congressman Kelly Armstrong, (ND-At Large): “It’s beyond frustrating to see important infrastructure projects delayed due to the federal bureaucracy. Every delay costs jobs and has a ripple effect throughout the economy. This overhaul will streamline the federal permitting process and will help our country expand, update, and rebuild our infrastructure for the 21st century.”

Congressman Andy Biggs, (AZ-05), Chief Regulatory Reform Officer, Congressional Western Caucus: “I applaud the Council on Environmental Quality’s imminent plans to reform the broken National Environmental Policy Act. By preparing to take this action, the Trump administration is making life easier for Americans by streamlining unnecessary and costly regulations. This overhaul will maintain public transparency and better fulfill the needs of western states.”

Congressman Ken Calvert, (CA-42): “I am pleased that the Council on Environmental Quality is updating NEPA’s outdated implementing guidance. For too long these vague directives have resulted in unnecessary project delays, frivolous litigation and job-killing federal overreach. I applaud CEQ’s work to establish strict timeframes and certainty for permittees that will help advance infrastructure projects vital to our nation’s economic growth.”

Congressman Paul Cook, (CA-08): “NEPA was initially a well-intended policy, but it’s long past due for an overhaul. Too many beneficial infrastructure projects are being needlessly held up by overly bureaucratic regulations, costing taxpayers money and deferring jobs for American workers. This change would improve the environmental review process while also cutting through the red tape to ensure timely and safe construction of necessary projects like roads, bridges, and water storage facilities. I strongly support this action.”

Congressman Jeff Duncan, (SC-03): “The Trump Administration should be commended for modernizing the National Environmental Policy Act regulations, a move that has been long overdue. These regulations haven’t seen a comprehensive update in over 40 years, so I’m pleased to see President Trump deliver on his promise to streamline outdated processes, eliminate red-tape, and create efficient standards in order to properly evaluate environmental impacts in the 21st century.”

Congressman Greg Gianforte, (MT-At Large): “I applaud the efforts of the Trump Administration to ensure that NEPA is returned to a process that ensures infrastructure projects are mindful of the environment and not a tool of serial litigants to block all development.”

Congressman Bob Gibbs, (OH-07): “The Trump Administration’s regulatory reform agenda continues to move in the right direction. I hear from countless local governments, public utility operators, and other stakeholders who run into the same problems of red tape and bureaucratic delays. In 2014, I worked to streamline the permitting process for Army Corps of Engineer projects, a bipartisan success that makes it easier to complete water resource projects in a timely manner. Today’s announcement of reforming the NEPA process continues the great work we started in 2014 to ensure infrastructure projects are completed on-time, on-budget, and most importantly, safely.”

Congressman Paul Gosar, (AZ-04), Chairman of Congressional Western Caucus: “Enacted with the best intentions in mind, NEPA has been hijacked by serial litigants to halt construction on critical infrastructure projects. Under the guise of environmental protection, special interest groups have stopped new roads and bridges, transmission lines, pipelines, and even offshore wind projects dead in their tracks. Today’s announcement shows the Trump administration’s commitment to ensuring the government works better for the people. Streamlining NEPA will create a more efficient and certain time line for new projects, while ensuring we safeguard our environment for the future.”

Congressman Mike Johnson, (LA-04): “Since his first day in office, President Trump has pledged to cut bureaucratic red tape, and this overhaul of NEPA is another promise kept. While originally well-intentioned, NEPA has morphed into a vehicle for perpetual litigation, and it is just another illustration of government-imposed regulations continuing to burden hardworking Americans and the economy. In our region specifically, excessive delays have stalled critical infrastructure projects like the I-49 Inner City Connector, which has been held up in the NEPA process for nearly eight years. I applaud the Trump administration for putting the American people first by streamlining these crippling policies.”

Congressman Doug LaMalfa, (CA-01), Chief Agriculture and Business Officer, Congressional Western Caucus: “Californians can afford to wait no longer for the government to do the forest management on its lands and the infrastructure overhauls needed to protect them from wildfires and droughts. The recent fires and power shut offs underline these needs as our constituents have suffered enough NEPA reform is a much-needed change from the current delays that prohibit forestry, water management, power line clearing and upgrades and wildfire prevention projects in my district from getting done. I applaud the Trump administration for once again cutting the red tape to protect rural communities in the West from future catastrophic disasters.”

Congressman Roger Marshall, (KS-01): “For far too long burdensome and lengthy permitting and regulatory processes have slowed and even destroyed infrastructure and energy projects across Kansas. Government regulations are one of the top concerns for businesses in my district and unnecessary delays in projects hurt business owners, communities and local economies. These studies and permits are necessary for proper development, but they need to be timely and

economically feasible. I applaud President Trump’s Council on Environmental Quality for its efforts to overhaul and streamline the environmental permitting process.”

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, (WA-05): “When I was first elected to Congress, I chaired a bipartisan task force with now Senator Tom Udall that made recommendations to update and improve NEPA. In any proposed project, we should involve stakeholders and interested parties early on and seek a more collaborative approach. The current process often results in years of delay, additional costs, and litigation. What started as a single paragraph statute in 1969 has turned into pages and pages of rules and regulations—and thousands of court cases—that slow and obstruct important projects. Thank you to the Trump administration for leading in addressing the NEPA process so we can move forward on projects that improve our forest health, develop our clean energy resources, and rebuild our aging infrastructure.”

Congressman Markwayne Mullin, (OK-02): “NEPA regulations affect a wide range of projects from construction of roads to land and forest management. Current NEPA regulations have become overbearing and difficult for people to navigate. The Trump Administration’s proposal to modernize the regulations and cut red tape just makes sense. This new rule will allow us to move faster on construction projects while still ensuring we are keeping our environment safe and clean.”

Congressman Dan Newhouse, (WA-04), Chief Rules Officer, Congressional Western Caucus: “Rural communities across the West cannot afford to wait years for critical economic and infrastructure development. Streamlining NEPA permitting processes will ensure swift, thorough, and complete analysis of the environmental impacts of the renewable energy and transportation projects we need in Central Washington. I applaud the Trump Administration for taking this important step to ensure these permitting reviews are completed in a timely manner and not falling victim to bureaucratic red tape or politically-motivated litigation.”

Congressman Pete Stauber, (MN-08): “Overhaul of NEPA is absolutely necessary. I stand with the Trump Administration in ensuring commonsense regulations protect our environment without needlessly providing ammunition to the most extreme environmentalist groups that seek to undermine any project for the sake of litigating. Timely reviews will provide certainty to companies and will expedite putting our hardworking unions to work in northern Minnesota.”

Congressman Bruce Westerman, (AR-04), Chief Infrastructure and Forestry Officer, Congressional Western Caucus: “If there’s one word to describe government approval processes, it’s inefficient. That’s why this plan to cut back on red tape and streamline a time-consuming process is so important. While some groups have tried to weaponize NEPA and use it as a delay tactic, that was never the intended goal. Hardworking Americans are asking for quicker, easier approvals for their projects, and these proposed changes would do just that, while maintaining the highest standards of environmental stewardship. I applaud CEQ for this plan and hope to continue working to make NEPA as efficient and workable as possible.”

State Government Officials

Alabama

Steve Marshall, Attorney General: “I applaud President @realDonaldTrump for his proposed overhaul of the National Environmental Policy Act. #NEPA was born of good intentions, but grew into a contrivance: the means for thousands of frivolous lawsuits to be filed by ‘progressives’ standing in the way of progress.”

Lance R. LeFleur, Director, Department of Environmental Management: “As public servants, we are obligated to use available resources efficiently while providing accurate, timely, and relevant information for regulatory decision making and informing the public. The proposed NEPA updates to simplify and streamline the regulatory process are long overdue and right on target to help meet that obligation.”

Richie Beyer, County Engineer, Elmore County: “Bureaucratic red tape and duplicative or cumbersome environmental reviews slow projects down and drive labor costs up. Currently, counties are required to follow the same exhaustive federal requirements on a small sidewalk or preservation project as they would for mega-projects. This simply does not make sense.”

Alaska

Mike Dunleavy, Governor: “I thank the Trump Administration for working to modernize and clarify the 40-year-old NEPA regulations. All Alaskans will benefit from an update to NEPA as it impacts many facets of our state, from construction of roads and highways, to energy projects, to land and forest management. We look forward to seeing this process unfold and the impact it will have on furthering Alaska’s opportunity for business and resource development projects within our state.”

Kevin Clarkson, Attorney General: “Eliminating unnecessary hurdles at the federal level ensures responsible resource development in Alaska as envisioned by our constitutional convention delegates when Alaska became a state. Alaskans value our resources and our environment and know how to strike the right balance through reasonable state regulation. We appreciate President Trump allowing states to take the lead role in this area.”

John MacKinnon, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities: “CEQ’s regulations should be more specific in what/how they require federal agencies to efficiently use other studies, analysis, and decision documents. Alaska DOT&PF has multiple examples where we have conducted studies and developed decision documents only to see another federal authorizing agency delay a project while they replicate the same studies and develop their own NEPA decision document prior to issuing a permit.”

Jason Brune, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation: “The NEPA process is in desperate need of an overhaul and I am excited that CEQ is embarking on efforts to improve it. Predictability in the permitting process is key to improving our investment climate, and this starts with holding true to the timelines and page counts NEPA envisioned when it was passed over 40 years ago.”

Arizona

Misael Cabrera, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: “I support making NEPA more user-friendly. Environmental protection should not be difficult to understand and implement.”

Arkansas

Tim Griffin, Lt. Governor: “I applaud the announcement from @POTUS @realdonaldtrump & appreciate his commitment to transform govt, grow jobs, & keep our economy strong by reducing red tape & streamlining #NEPA process. This is a win for American industry & infrastructure projects.”

Leslie Rutledge, Attorney General: “I support President Trump’s efforts to streamline the rules and processes that are currently hindering infrastructure projects. His efforts will help speed construction and promote investment in critical infrastructure that is key to a robust economy.”

Becky Keogh, Secretary, Department of Energy and Environment: “CEQ’s proposed rule compliments the progress Arkansas has already accomplished in the areas of regulatory reform and environmental protection. We appreciate the leadership and proactive approach of this proposed rule, which will provide for a more efficient and timely decision-making process for both energy and infrastructure in Arkansas.”

Colorado

Ray Scott, State Senator, Senate District 7: “Revamping of NEPA has been needed for a decade or more as the requirements have slowed down much needed infrastructure for broadband expansion, roads and natural resource development. President Trump kept his promise to reduce regulations and these changes will certainly put more Americans to work. Colorado needs all the help we can get to advance new infrastructure projects to support our fast paced growth.”

Susan Beckman, State Representative, House District 38: “This is good news. As an Arapahoe County Commissioner, I saw firsthand the layers of bureaucracy and red tape added to transportation projects. One intersection, I-25 and Arapahoe Road, was bogged down for years with redundant, expensive and inefficient NEPA requirements. These requirements did nothing to protect the environment and only added time and massive expense to the project. I am so proud of President Trump for streamlining the process for needed transportation projects without jeopardizing our environment. This will save time, money and allow local and state elected officials to focus on real environmental concerns.”

Libby Szabo, County Commissioner, Jefferson County: “The NEPA process has become egregious and bureaucratic over the years. It is always a good thing to reevaluate rules and regulations from time to time to make sure they are known and fair and are up to date with how business is done. I’m glad to see the EPA is making this a priority.”

Florida

Carlos Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County: “I’d like to thank @realdonaldtrump for his leadership to bring common sense reforms that cut red tape and expedite construction projects without hurting our environment. Proposed federal rules are in the works.”

Georgia

Brian Kemp, Governor: “Thank you to President Trump for his continued focus on cutting red tape and empowering states. Simplifying the NEPA process and making it more transparent will help states deliver the infrastructure we need to grow our communities in a more effective and more efficient manner.”

Chris Carr, Attorney General: “We applaud President Trump’s efforts to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act, which in its current form has proven to be frustratingly complex and overly burdensome. Transparency, efficiency and predictability are critical to ensuring Georgia’s and America’s continued success, and we think this effort will clarify and enhance coordination as states, local communities and the private sector work to plan, finance, build and maintain infrastructure projects all across our nation and right here at home.”

Idaho

Brad Little, Governor: “I am a strong advocate of healthy lands and waters, and I support President Trump’s plans to update the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The complexity of NEPA has created land management barriers and a burdensome backlog of needed projects in Idaho. Proposed improvements to the law would uphold essential environmental safeguards and public participation while saving taxpayer dollars by reducing the time and cost of NEPA compliance for routine agency projects. The result will be more efficient highway and construction projects, reduced fire risk, and jobs from increased on-the-ground activities that improve the health of our lands. We cannot delay any longer in modernizing NEPA.”

Department of Transportation Director Brian Ness (ID), Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley (MT), Department of Transportation Director William Panos (ND), Department of Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist (SD), Department of Transportation Director Luke Reiner (WY): “We support the effort to revise the NEPA procedural regulations to achieve more expeditious and better coordinated review of environmental issues pursuant to NEPA. This can be done consistent with environmental protection. The transportation departments of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming commend CEQ for working to improve and accelerate the NEPA review process by updating applicable regulations. This can be done in a way that saves time and money, does not weaken review and is consistent with environmental protection.”

Scott Bedke, House Speaker, District 27: “President Trump’s announcement last week that his administration is proposing a modernization of National Environmental Policy Act regulations is good news for all of us. The reform of burdensome regulations is something we in Idaho are committed to, and we appreciate the same approach at the federal level. President Trump’s reforms will ensure even greater economic health for our nation by eliminating or simplifying the

time and cost of NEPA compliance. We applaud this action and look forward to similar initiatives in the future.”

Matt Pember, County Prosecutor, Gooding County: “As a public servant in small Idaho Counties for the past 16 years, I have gotten very used to the ‘we’re from the federal government and we’ll take care of it’ attitude that never produced anything beneficial for local governments... I am continually impressed and heartened that President Trump is giving a voice and accepting input from local governments in a true effort to streamline the bureaucratic nonsense that has bogged down our country for so long.”

Iowa

Kim Reynolds, Governor: “Thank you to @POTUS for continuing your work to decrease regulation across the states!”

Kansas

Derek Schmidt, Attorney General: “Effective environmental policy should allow collaboration among federal, state and local agencies and private industry. I truly appreciate the administration’s efforts to bring the National Environmental Policy Act into the 21st century and allow critical infrastructure projects to move forward in Kansas and across the country.”

Kentucky

Gary Moore, County Judge/Executive, Boone County, President, Kentucky Association of Counties & First Vice President of the National Association of Counties: “On behalf of the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) and the 120 counties we represent, I am writing to express our support for the Administration’s proposal to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). KACo supports efforts to minimize overly burdensome federal regulations that slow down improvements to infrastructure, impede economic development and increase costs . . . We affirm that the proposed rule would facilitate more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews by simplifying and clarifying requirements, while continuing to protect the environment.”

Louisiana

Jeff Landry, Attorney General: “President Trump has once again delivered on his promise to unleash the American economy from over-burdensome regulation. By establishing definite timelines for environmental reviews, President Trump clears the way for thousands of American workers to capitalize on the historic wage increases realized under his watch. President Trump’s timely NEPA reviews also enable those American workers to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, improving the quality of life for future generations.”

Mike Strain, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture: “I am very pleased regarding the action taken today to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act. From initial discussions during the White House Infrastructure Summit held on June 8 2017, it was apparent that such

action was critical if this country is to modernize and advance federal infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, broadband, locks and dams and similar projects. Subsequently, President Trump issued an executive order on August 15 directing the Council on Environmental Quality to review its existing NEPA regulations and modernize and accelerate the federal environmental review and decision making process. Currently, it takes federal agencies an average of 4.5 years to complete environmental impact statements and seven -10 years to get environmental clearance on federal highway projects. We cannot allow such burdensome regulations to delay the advancement of our national economy. The proposed NEPA rule filed today will, after considerable study and discussion, result in implementation of the necessary changes that will facilitate marked national growth and expansion meeting the needs of current and future generations of Americans.”

Minnesota

Randy Maluchnik, Commissioner, Carver County: “Streamlining the permitting process is a win for the Carver County economy. We welcome the reforms offered by the administration, which will allow us to create and sustain our infrastructure, grow our economy and continue to protect our environment.”

Mississippi

Tate Reeves, Governor-elect: “President Trump’s plan will help clear the delays on needed infrastructure projects in Mississippi and around the country. Clearing a path for projects to break ground quickly will spur jobs creation and grow our economy.”

Missouri

Chris Chinn, Director, Department of Agriculture: “The President has proposed changes to NEPA regulations. Among those are that @USDA farm ownership & operating loan guarantees no longer be subject to NEPA review, allowing farmers & ranchers to spend less time waiting & more time working to feed, fuel & clothe the world.”

Montana

Greg Chilcott, Commissioner, Ravalli County: “These reforms are a step forward for Ravalli County. We will be able to protect our environment into the future while enhancing our infrastructure and our economy while increasing the resiliency of our national forests.”

Nebraska

Pete Ricketts, Governor: “Thank you to President Trump for his continued focus on cutting red tape and empowering states. Simplifying the NEPA process and making it more transparent will help states deliver the infrastructure we need to grow our communities in a more effective and more efficient manner.”

Jim Macy, Director, Department of Environment and Energy, and President of the Environmental Council of the States: “The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) appreciates the opportunity to engage with EPA over how to improve the ability of NEPA to contribute to timely decisions and continuing to add environmental value to those decisions. Nebraska has had one of the most challenging years in 2019 with regard to flood, ice storm and bomb cyclone blizzard recovery. It is essential that we strive to have a reasonable, consistent federal voice regarding all aspects of NEPA. This way, as states work with our local community partners, we can speak with clarity, accuracy, and reasonableness.”

Mary Ann Borgeson, County Commissioner, Douglas County & President of the National Association of Counties: “Counties own and maintain 45 percent of the nation’s road miles and nearly four out of ten of the nation’s bridges. We operate public safety systems, including emergency response and 9-1-1 call centers, and a host of other critical infrastructure. Douglas County balances responsible environmental stewardship with other community needs like public safety, infrastructure and economic development. Unnecessarily onerous, inefficient NEPA regulations often hinder our ability to meet residents’ needs. We stand ready to continue to work with our federal partners on regulatory reform that strengthens infrastructure and the economy while preserving sensible environmental safeguards.”

Nevada

Chris Edwards, Assemblyman, House District 19: “The excessive costs of redundant NEPA analysis has slowed construction of this [I-11] critical transportation corridor and ones like it across the country. The environmental analysis in Nevada alone is expected to take three years and cost \$5 million. I applaud the Trump administration for taking action to reform the broken NEPA process and create a more efficient permitting system. This is long overdue! The President’s actions today are another common sense reform that will allow vital infrastructure projects to move forward safely and expeditiously in Nevada, Arizona and across America.”

New Mexico

Mark Cage, County Sheriff, Eddy County & President of the New Mexico Association of Counties: “New Mexico Counties recognize the importance of providing protections for the environment and the nation's limited resources. We appreciate efforts to streamline NEPA processes and keep regulatory reform free from unnecessary burdens and delays that make it difficult for local governments to engage effectively.”

New York

Tim Hens, Highway Superintendent & Highway Superintendent, Genesee County: “We welcome reforms that will allow for local governments to address our nation’s aging infrastructure in a timely manner. These reforms will aid counties in their ability to utilize federal funds for road and bridge expansion, repair and rehabilitation more efficiently and expeditiously. We applaud the President and Administration and look forward to working together to ensure these common-sense reforms provide a regulatory landscape that will improve project delivery times while maintaining the environmental protections important to our communities.”

North Carolina

Dan Forest, Lt. Governor: “Just as we have done in North Carolina, President Donald J. Trump is working tirelessly to cut red tape and fight burdensome regulations that stifle business and economic growth. The White House’s latest proposed rule will streamline and speed up the process of environmental reviews for highways, pipelines, and other infrastructure projects. This will directly help our state’s already booming economy.”

Tim Moore, State Representative and Speaker of the House: “Our communities need the streamlined infrastructure development that modernized NEPA permitting will facilitate, reforms that benefit North Carolina’s rural and urban economies by ensuring regulatory certainty, addressing bureaucratic dysfunction, and implementing effective reforms that work for the American economy.”

Bob Woodard, County Commissioner & Chairman, Dare County: “It is my hope that the proposed new rule will allow more timely construction of much-needed projects, which not only will improve our economy by creating jobs but will also ensure the safety of our residents and visitors.”

North Dakota

Doug Burgum, Governor: “No one cares more about North Dakota’s environment than the people who live here, but the 40-year-old NEPA process has become increasingly complex, cumbersome and time-consuming, resulting in unnecessary, multi-year delays and cost increases for key infrastructure projects including highways, pipelines and critical flood protection. We thank CEQ and the Trump administration for proposing common- sense reforms to modernize and streamline NEPA.”

Doug Goehring, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture: “Agriculture has been largely impacted by NEPA. Ranchers have had to wait for years to execute a managed grazing plan until environmental impact statements were done. Even management of destructive prairie dogs on grasslands required a lengthy process which resulted in more destruction of forage and harm to the environment before a plan to control them could be implemented.”

Oklahoma

Kevin Stitt, Governor: “I applaud President Trump’s willingness to modernize and clarify the NEPA process. For far too long this framework has been used to create obstacles and cause unnecessary delays to important projects that are necessary to grow our economies, create jobs, and improve our quality of life. The Trump Administration’s effort to reform the NEPA process is consistent with our goals for the Great State of Oklahoma of promoting a prosperous economy and protecting our precious natural resources with a predictable, consistent and reasonable regulatory framework.”

Mike Hunter, Attorney General: “I applaud the administration’s effort to streamline and modernize these long-stale NEPA regulations. The proposals seek to strike the appropriate balance between ensuring environmental protection and allowing necessary infrastructure projects to go forward without being prevented or delayed for years in a morass of endless review. These reforms will eliminate unnecessary barriers to good-paying jobs for Oklahomans and safe, updated infrastructure such as road, bridges and energy projects.”

Kenneth E. Wagner, Secretary, Department of Energy and Environment: “Reform of the NEPA process is long overdue and I greatly welcome the Trump Administration’s decision to take action. The NEPA framework was never intended to cause unreasonable and indefinite delays to major projects. Environmental impact statements were designed to be clear, concise, and supported by evidence that an agency has made the necessary environmental analyses. These proposed changes will return the NEPA process to the scope the Congress originally intended, protect our environment, and ensure that our economy will continue to flourish.”

Cindy Bobbit, County Commissioner, Grant County: “Deregulation will improve and bring back into balance federal regulations, especially on the issues around the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA has not been changed since 1970 and what we see today still maintains all environmental requirements but cuts down the timetable for approval to save time and money. Money saved is money earned and 100% of the people are the benefactors.”

Oregon

Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County: “We were told repeatedly after the Rabbit Mountain and Douglas Complex fires that salvage could not happen at the landscape level because it would require an EIS. As a result, the BLM has only been willing to salvage what is allowed under categorical exclusions and environmental assessments. And even EAs do not get done quickly enough to salvage timber before the wood has degraded to where it has no commercial value. On the rare occasion they are done in time, they are then litigated. So NEPA obstacles are leading to a buildup of snags and fuels, increased future fire risks, and wasted economic opportunities that follow catastrophic wildfire.”

Todd Nash, Commissioner, Wallowa County: “Federal staff has been overburdened with the ever-increasing length and detail of NEPA documents with fewer successes to show for their efforts. Timber, grazing, recreation, and mining management on U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands have suffered at the hands of more regulation, litigation, and stagnation. As a county commissioner in a county with over 50% of its land base managed by federal agencies these new policies are exactly what is needed. The emphasis on the social and economic needs of our communities has been overshadowed by regulatory agencies that have single-minded priorities. I’m looking forward to healthier forests and communities.”

Colleen Roberts, County Commissioner, Jackson County: “The recent announcement for the regulatory reform regarding NEPA, by President Trump’s Administration is huge news. Costly and inefficient layers of regulations are crippling too many efforts involving County projects and public land management. Removing bureaucratic mire, alleviating unnecessary years of delay and the associated financial burden, while maintaining sensible environmental safeguards, will

be beneficial to the citizens we serve, who ultimately pay the bill. Another benchmark of success for President Trump working to make America great again.”

Kris Stickler, the Department of Transportation: “We appreciate CEQ’s initiation of the long overdue review of the NEPA Implementing Regulations.”

Pennsylvania

Christian Leinbach, Commissioner, Berks County: “Reform of the process must include consideration of the reasonableness of costs of compliance, the tangible/physical existence of the potential impacts, and the need for expediency in completion of public projects that benefit the common good.”

South Carolina

Henry McMaster, Governor: “Government red tape has long hindered our ability to deliver infrastructure projects on time and within budget. Thanks to the President’s announcement to modernize NEPA, we are one step closer to eliminating the excessive bureaucracy that has stifled progress and complicated development for far too long. President Trump’s leadership on NEPA will result in increased opportunities for businesses and is good news for our state and the quality of life of our citizens.”

Myra C. Reese, Director of Environmental Affairs, Department of Health & Environmental Control: “In 1970, NEPA was enacted as our nation's first major environmental law and since that time it has made environmental considerations a fundamental part of project planning and implementation. We look forward at the state level to continuing to promote the core purposes of NEPA, while working collaboratively with our federal partners to identify ways to make the related processes more efficient, resulting in sound decisions being made in a more timely manner.”

South Dakota

Kristi Noem, Governor: “Modernizing and revamping the NEPA regulations are significant and long-overdue. Among a host of others, one area we often see these burdensome requirements slowing down progress is around infrastructure projects like highways and bridges. As Governor, I am committed to protecting our people and our state from federal government intrusion. I’m so thankful for President Trump’s leadership on these very necessary reforms.”

Texas

Greg Abbott, Governor: “The review process as required by NEPA has historically lacked efficiency and clarity, and its burdensome system stifles economic development and opportunity. I applaud the Trump administration’s efforts and welcome an update and much-needed reforms to NEPA regulations. I am confident that this overhaul will lead to even greater prosperity throughout the United States -- and especially here in the Lone Star State.”

James Bass, Executive Director, Department of Transportation: “The process is heavy on documentation and at times inefficient. That said, the need for good decision-making and transparency is applicable today as it was 50 years ago. Yes, the NEPA process can be more efficient without weakening the intent and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input to this discussion.”

Utah

Gary Herbert, Governor: “I’m grateful for @realDonaldTrump's efforts to streamline NEPA. Environmental Protection is crucial, and a simpler, faster, and more certain process is a win for everyone. Taxpayers and the environment will both benefit from these changes.”

Carlos Braceras, Executive Director, Department of Transportation: “As the CEQ’s NEPA regulations have not been comprehensively updated in nearly four decades, UDOT supports the effort to review and update the regulations.”

Troy Forrest, Grazing Program Improvement Manager, Department of Agriculture and Food: “The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Rich County Commission, 39 Livestock Permittees, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) have spent ten years attempting to implement a comprehensive change in management on five BLM and five USFS allotments, known as the Three Creeks Grazing Allotment Consolidation. These changes are designed to improve wildlife habitat, water quality, plant diversity and livestock management. . . . Due to the decade long NEPA process, we have learned several lessons that hindered the ability to promptly develop the appropriate NEPA analysis. . . .High turnover of upper management and decision making personnel along with other critical natural resource specialist like range conservationists, biologists, and support staff in both the USFS and the BLM made the project harder to get done in a reasonable time frame. Each time a new person came in it took time to get them up to speed and working effectively to move the project forward. . . .Thousands of Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements have been conducted on grazing infrastructure improvements such as water developments and fencing. In nearly all cases a finding of “No Significant Impact” has been made. When we know that is going to be the result, why do we conduct new time and resource consuming NEPA analyses? . . .Multiple federal agencies involved in a NEPA process adds complexity to NEPA. There should be a way where one agency can adopt the regulations of another agency to meet all requirements for NEPA. . . .The support and resources of state agencies in Utah have made the large Three Creeks project’s extensive infrastructure possible. Money coming directly from federal government sources is difficult to incorporate into a large project with as many dynamics as Three Creeks. We need to find a way to make federal funding fit these types of projects better. Project proponents, including the Rich County Commission and interested permit holders, have acted as the “glue” to move the project along with all of the different challenges. The presence of project proponents is crucial to the long-term success of NEPA.”

Brian Bremner, County Engineer, Garfield County: “In December 2011, as a result of the Dixie Motorized Travel Plan that closed 75 percent of existing forest roads to public travel, Garfield County, Utah filed a Data Quality and Regulatory Flexibility Act Challenge to overturn

the decision. The U.S. Forest Service responded by agreeing to conduct what they called a “Need for Change NEPA” action if the county would withdraw/suspend the challenge. The new NEPA process began in spring of 2012 and has been a fiasco ever since. In spite of overwhelming public input asking for roads to be re-opened, the Forest Services has thrown up road blocks every step of the way.”

Leland Pollock, Commissioner, Garfield County: “In the Dixie National Forest, issues with the NEPA process led to the eventual shutdown of our local timber mill, costing 400 good-paying jobs in our community. Special interest groups were able to sue over minor NEPA technicalities, harming our local economy. This also led to massive fuel build ups that made it possible for the Brian Head Fire to burn more than 71,000 acres of forestland, destroying 13 homes. It also decimated the drinking water supply for Panguitch, Utah, which was supplied by a spring system that functioned flawlessly for over 100 years before the fire. It is imperative that the NEPA process be streamlined to prevent these tragedies moving forward and to improve the health of our landscapes.”

Virginia

Todd Pillion, State Senator, Senate District 40: “This is a decision to be applauded across the board. With this proposal, the Trump administration is modernizing and cutting the red tape on decades-old regulations and processes that cost projects time and money. Virginians will see the benefits of this new rule in energy, broadband, and transportation projects across the Commonwealth.”

West Virginia

Patrick Morrissey, Attorney General: “These terrible delays increase costs and drive down the availability of well-paying jobs. By shortening the average delay, President Trump’s proposal will lead to more new roads, higher wages for West Virginia families and a better quality of life for everyone.”

Austin Caperton, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection: “I applaud the President’s policies to reduce the regulatory burden which have led to increased costs and delays for Americans and the progress of our country. The overhaul of NEPA is a large step in the right direction.”

Wyoming

Mark Gordon, Governor: “Uncertainty is never good for proper development and it has been particularly problematic in Wyoming, especially in light of recent court rulings regarding NEPA-related greenhouse gas emission analyses. States like Wyoming need assurance that projects will be properly analyzed the first time around so that decisions on the ground can be made in a timely manner. I support CEQ’s efforts to streamline federal agency guidance under this proposed rule.”

Steve Harshman, Speaker of the House: “I am grateful to the President and his administration for their leadership on bringing balance to the NEPA regulations. Actions like this are good for the working men and women of Wyoming and allow us to responsibly develop our vast resources in a manner that benefits our families, our wonderful state and our great country.”

Joel Bousman, Commissioner, Sublette County: “It took the U.S. Forest Service over 14 years to complete the NEPA process to renew grazing on the Upper Green River Grazing Allotment. As a county commissioner, I know firsthand how cumbersome and inefficient NEPA analyses can be, which prevents important work from being done on our nation’s public lands. The new NEPA streamlining provisions unveiled today will help Sublette County and the federal government to achieve those land management goals while ensuring we have the best scientific data available to guide our decisions.”

Labor Unions

[Laborers’ International Union of North America, Terry O’Sullivan, General President:](#) “LIUNA commends the Administration on the proposed overhaul to the NEPA review process, which has for far too long allowed crucial infrastructure projects to languish. The NEPA overhaul will modernize the permitting process for energy and transportation infrastructure and speed up the creation of good jobs while maintaining the integrity of the underlying regulations that ensure that the environment and communities are protected. The hard-working members of LIUNA, who have endured the endless delays plaguing so many infrastructure projects, hail these common sense reforms and the inter-agency accountability built into the Administration’s proposal. LIUNA looks forward to working with the Administration on these critical regulatory changes, so that we can get to work on our nation’s urgent infrastructure needs.”

[North America’s Building Trades Union, Sean McGarvey, President:](#) “NABTU supports reforms to NEPA that provide regulatory certainty through the permitting process while maintaining the integrity of underlying regulations that protect the health and safety of our members on the jobsite as well as the environmental and human impacts of projects in communities throughout the country. Endless delays, limited transparency and agency ambiguity far too often prevent project sponsors, our hard working members, and the public from realizing the benefits of impactful investments in all manner of projects. Common sense reforms and interagency accountability are long overdue. We now hope added certainty will assist private development and finally spur robust public investment – and remain hopeful that congress and this administration can now set their focus on a massive infrastructure bill to rebuild the USA and create millions of jobs.”

Associations and Stakeholders

American Conservative Union, Matt Schlapp, Chairman: “With Congress in seemingly perpetual gridlock, this administration has taken the bull by the horns to untangle a bureaucratic mess that has stalled needed infrastructure projects for years. What was once an effort to assure that a project does not do serious harm to the environment has, over 40 years, become the instrument of ideologically motivated groups to put a stranglehold on progress. This long

overdue update to streamline the permitting process will be welcome news to those who believe fixing our crumbling infrastructure should not be held hostage to NEPA.”

American Council of Engineering Companies: “America’s engineering industry believes we can improve our infrastructure while being good stewards of the environment. The expectation of our public and private project owners is that NEPA should be implemented with a better balance of timelines and reviewing agency accountability to provide more certainty for investments. For this reason, the American Council of Engineering Companies supports commonsense NEPA reforms to eliminate unnecessary delays in project delivery and reduce the regulatory burdens that stifle innovation.”

[American Energy Alliance, Thomas Pyle, President:](#) “When it was first signed into law in 1970, NEPA served as a way for federal agencies to consider the impacts of their actions, helping them to balance a range of interests. Today, NEPA is a massively expensive and time-consuming liability that threatens to derail crucial infrastructure and energy development projects. NEPA, as it currently operates, is the model of an outdated regulation that has been exploited beyond recognition from its original purpose.”

[American Exploration and Mining Association, Mark Compton, Executive Director:](#) “Simply put, NEPA is broken. While a NEPA analysis has become 'standard operating procedure' for our members, it also has become increasingly more cumbersome, time consuming and expensive. NEPA is no longer the planning and decision-making tool it was designed to be. Instead, it has become the tool used by obstructionist groups who oppose responsible and lawful mineral development on federal public lands. Reforming the NEPA process and creating a more efficient permitting system are critical to improving the competitiveness of the domestic mining industry, job creation, and decreasing our reliance on foreign sources of energy and minerals.”

[American Exploration and Production Council, Anne Bradbury, CEO:](#) “Our country is at a pivotal time for American energy; all phases of energy production need efficient, effective and streamlined processes to ensure that we can meet our growing energy demands and protect our national security interests. The Administration’s modernization of NEPA removes bureaucratic barriers that were stifling construction of key infrastructure projects needed for U.S. producers to deliver energy in a safe and environmentally protective way. Updating NEPA will expedite projects for all sources of energy - pipelines, power lines, wind turbines and oil and gas wells - and will provide the energy needed to continue moving our economy forward.”

American Farm Bureau Federation, Zippy Duvall, President: “Farmers and ranchers rely on the land, some directly on federal forests and rangelands, so keeping them healthy and productive is critical to us. But current NEPA regulations have become an obstacle instead of an instrument for responsible management. The government has reached a point of analysis paralysis, which serves no one well, least of all the environment. Updating these 40-year-old regulations is smart government.”

[American Gas Association, Karen Harbert, CEO:](#) “This proposed rule from the White House Council on Environmental Quality is an important step to greater transparency and efficiency in the NEPA process and will help America’s natural gas utilities continue to provide timely, safe,

reliable and affordable service to the 179 million Americans that enjoy the benefits of natural gas and the millions more that want it. It is promising to see the CEQ take feedback and concerns from all stakeholders, including our industry, into account during this review. We are hopeful that this rule will result in a federal environmental review and permitting process that increases infrastructure development while growing the economy and enhancing environmental stewardship.”

American Highway Users Alliance: “Streamlining the long and costly NEPA review process is important to expedite critically needed infrastructure improvements. The Highway Users has been an advocate for streamlining federal reviews for highway projects for more than two decades because bureaucratic delays increase project costs and create uncertainty over the viability of important projects – even those projects that save lives. Improving the review process is fully consistent with environmental protection because a streamlined process still requires a very careful review and significant public involvement.”

American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), Lisa B. Nelson, CEO: “We are excited that the Trump administration will streamline the review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) so that Americans wishing to build modern infrastructure will receive clear answers from the federal government in a timely manner. The world has changed a lot since 1978 when the White House Council on Environmental Quality first issued NEPA regulations and outdated rules have created red tape. From broadband internet and cellphone towers to water projects and power lines, all types of infrastructure important to our modern lives will benefit from more a timely and efficient NEPA process.”

American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), Grant Kidwell, Director, Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force: “Glad to see that @whceq is working on #NEPAModernization. Infrastructure projects of all types can be endlessly delayed because of outdated NEPA regulations and the use of frivolous legal challenges over environmental statements. A great example is the purple line light rail project in Maryland where Nimby opponents were able to stall the project in 2016 claiming the project didn’t do an adequate environmental impact statements and got a judge to hold up the project.”

American Petroleum Institute, Mike Sommers, President and CEO: “Endless and repetitive reviews for infrastructure, renewable energy, natural gas and oil projects have been misused to delay and derail development, which hurts job creation, reduces tax revenue and saps investments in communities across the country. Reforming the NEPA process is a critical step toward meeting growing demand for cleaner energy and unlocking job-creating infrastructure projects currently stuck in a maze of red tape.”

American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Dave Bauer, President: “It can take up to seven years to complete the environmental review process for a new federal-aid project. That’s too long. The Trump administration’s commonsense reforms will help speed up the delivery of U.S. transportation infrastructure projects. Streamlining the NEPA process is essential to assuring that the government is making every transportation dollar go as far as possible while preserving a commitment to our environment.”

American Trucking Associations: “The National Environmental Policy Act was not designed to freeze all progress on major projects and give veto power to every neighborhood. The degradation of our nation’s aging highway infrastructure contributes to the more than \$70 billion in congestion costs borne by the trucking industry alone and poses serious safety consequences for all motorists, including truckers. . . . In Louisiana for example, the Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge replacement project has been delayed for two decades by a creaking, outdated NEPA process. The bridge, designed to handle 37,000 vehicles per day when it was opened in 1952, now carries 90,000 vehicles, including more than 5,000 trucks. The FHWA rates the span a 6.6 out of 100, and its steep grades and lack of shoulders makes for a harrowing and dangerous drive. Although state officials have known since the 1980s that the bridge is in critical need of replacement, like many other similar projects nationwide the current review process has prevented states from moving forward in a timely manner. . . . We applaud President Trump and his administration for their efforts to Streamline the project approval process – injecting much-needed sanity into efforts to modernize our infrastructure while also reducing project delivery time and costs, insuring that precious resources aren’t frittered away on bureaucratic box-checking when they could be going to pay for U.S.-made steel, asphalt and concrete.”

American Wind Energy Association, Amy Farrell, Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs: “The American Wind Energy Association supports improving the National Environmental Policy Act review process. While America’s wind energy industry supports the fundamental goals of NEPA to appropriately consider potential environmental and climate impacts, the NEPA process has not been revised in decades. As a result, infrastructure projects, including land-based and offshore wind energy and transmission development, have encountered unreasonable and unnecessary costs and long project delays. It is time to update and modernize the permitting process, which would both strengthen our economy and enhance environmental stewardship. We look forward to reviewing the proposed rule and working with the Administration to advance infrastructure permitting reform. . . . Reducing permitting delays and uncertainties associated with responsible wind energy infrastructure development will create jobs, increase deployment of clean, reliable American-made domestic power; expand manufacturing opportunities for workers in local communities (especially in rural and coastal areas); add to local tax revenue; and support broader infrastructure development, such as port revitalization from the development of offshore wind facilities.”

Americans for Limited Government, Rick Manning, President: “The Trump administration’s proposed rule to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations is timely and important. America cannot compete in the 21st century digital age when common sense infrastructure needs are effectively derailed by a regulatory regime which often takes the better part of a decade to satisfy. The streamlined system outlined by the proposed rule protects the environment while taking away barriers which are more about stopping needed growth than protecting the environment.”

Americans for Tax Reform, Grover Norquist, President: “NEPA regulations slowed down infrastructure projects under the Obama administration, creating an average delay of four years for needless paperwork--contrary to CEQ's guidance under the Reagan administration limiting the permitting process to one year. It should never take four years for the government to issue a permit to build a bridge. Crucial infrastructure projects should receive their environmental

review in a timely manner and be based solely on the merits of the project. Today’s proposal from CEQ is a significant step forward.”

Arizona Mining Association, Steve Trussel, Executive Director: “In Arizona, the Ray Land Exchange is the poster child for NEPA reform. It shouldn’t take 25 years to complete the environmental process for an existing mine expansion. Especially, when this commonsense land exchange consolidates multiple checkerboards of lands, benefits taxpayers, increases protections for plants and wildlife, expands recreation and hunting access, and creates good-paying jobs in rural America. We all want to protect the environment and the U.S. has the highest standards in the world. But let’s stop throwing the baby out with the bath water. I applaud the Trump administration for taking action to fix a broken process that—for decades—has been unnecessarily hamstringing job creation, stifling investment and preventing important infrastructure projects.”

Associated Builders and Contractors: “ABC supports the modernization of these critical regulations and believes that these enhancements will go a long way towards eliminating unnecessary delays that cause budget overruns in construction. Creating a coordinated, predictable and transparent process to streamline permitting will enable the industry to plan and execute even the most complex projects while safeguarding our communities, maintaining a healthy environment and being good stewards of public funds.”

Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado, Ray Beck, Chairman: “While AGNC supports the concept of assessing environmental impacts prior to Federal decisions being made, the NEPA process has become much more onerous than was originally envisioned. The current NEPA process is complex and time consuming, the proposed CEQ changes are common sense modifications that will promote more timely, effective and efficient decision making utilizing current technologies and practices. These changes will be positive for local governments, industry as well as land management agencies and our public lands.”

Associated General Contractors of America, Stephen Sandherr, CEO: “The administration is right to seek to make the review process more efficient and cost effective without sacrificing environmental protections, thereby allowing the public to receive and benefit from cleaner water, safer roads and bridges, and a more reliable energy system in a timelier fashion. The problem with the current environmental review process is that it long stopped being about evaluating the environmental impacts of a proposed project and has become a way for special interest groups to further their agenda by holding needed infrastructure and development projects hostage to countless lawsuits and delays.”

Association of American Railroads, Ian Jefferies, President and CEO: “Updating and streamlining the permitting process is long overdue, and the freight rail industry applauds the Administration for taking this important step forward. Railroads agree that more can and must be done to expedite routine maintenance and other critical construction projects without compromising important environmental protections. We look forward to continued conversations with our partners in government to advance the NEPA modernization process.”

Club 20, Christian Reece, Executive Director: “The modernization of NEPA is long overdue and Club 20 applauds the Council on Environmental Quality for putting forward a commonsense proposal to streamline these extremely arduous and costly regulations. Club 20 believes the more efficient and effective processes being implemented by the administration will lead to better decision making while ensuring the prudent protection of environmental concerns.”

[Competitive Enterprise Institute, Myron Ebell, Director for Energy and Environment](#): “The administration’s proposed reforms of NEPA regulations are a big step toward correcting the worst abuses of the environmental permitting process. Over the decades, bad court decisions and bureaucratic laziness have turned NEPA from a sensible tool to consider the environmental impacts of major projects into a weapon used to delay projects to death. . . . American infrastructure lags other developed countries because getting a NEPA permit and successfully defending it from multiple legal challenges takes many years and often over a decade. In no other country does it regularly take as long to permit an infrastructure project. The same is true of major natural resource projects, which is why, for example, new mines open much more often in Canada than in the United States. . . . We hope the administration will take the next step and propose needed legislative reforms to NEPA for Congress to consider.”

[Competitive Enterprise Institute, Ben Lieberman, Senior Fellow](#): “The original purpose of NEPA was to require a timely environmental assessment of major projects, not to substantially delay or block them entirely. But in the hands of environmentalist litigants, this statute has morphed into a project killer which has recently been used to stop fossil fuel production and infrastructure based on climate change concerns and thus threatens to derail the Trump administration’s energy dominance agenda. This proposed rule restores NEPA’s original intent of taking environmental concerns into consideration without destroying jobs or harming the economy.”

[Energy 45, Mandy Gunasekara, Founder](#): “The Trump Administration’s proposed updates to the NEPA process are a breath of regulatory fresh air. They demonstrate a thoughtful and balanced approach to advancing important environmental protections while ensuring the process cannot be abused to endlessly delay important projects.”

Energy Fairness, Paul Griffin, Executive Director: “Investing the time to modernize NEPA regulations after 40 years will give Federal land managers the tools they need to prevent the cataclysmic wildfires we’ve seen in California and the West in recent years. This investment can only yield dividends through fewer forced power outages and overall enhanced electricity reliability and affordability.”

Energy Fuels, Paul Goranson, Chief Operating Officer: “Updating the NEPA process is vital to any new project investment, and what CEQ has proposed places accountability for an efficient and transparent process back on a single lead agency while streamlining the current duplicative and complex process that exists today. Regulatory certainty in NEPA process is necessary to assure that both private and public investment in new infrastructure and projects can meet timelines and expectations for taxpayers and investors. This is the first real revision of the NEPA process that incorporates statutes and regulations that have been enacted since NEPA was enacted over 40 years ago. These revisions are desperately needed to keep investment in

America. The complex and duplicative regulatory process that the NEPA process has become is sending investment for new projects overseas for investment in countries. Countries, such as Canada, with regulations that are similar to the President's 'One Federal Decision' executive order are receiving investment and growing their business."

Federal Forest Resource Coalition, Bill Imbergamo, Executive Director: "For too long, the National Environmental Policy Act has been misused to slow down and stymie needed forest management on our public lands. As a result, Federal forests have been left in an unhealthy, overstocked condition that has made them vulnerable to insects, disease, and wildfire. By streamlining NEPA, the Administration is working to protect our environment and our economy while reducing unnecessary delays and redundant analysis. We look forward to supporting this important set of reforms."

The Fertilizer Institute: "The Fertilizer Institute supports the Council for Environmental Quality's efforts to revise the National Environmental Policy Act regulations to restore the original Congressional intent of the law to 'help public officials make decision that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.' However, over the past 50 years, the regulations have evolved into a legal framework which has unnecessarily stalled or prevented phosphate and potash mining projects in the United States. These process-based delay tactics do not reflect environmental impacts and only serve to increase project costs and permitting delays. One TFI member company has committed over \$20 Million to a permit with an approval process of over 11 years. TFI believes the revisions to NEPA will ensure federal regulations continue to protect the environment without causing unnecessary negative impact to the business community."

Freedom Works Foundation, Dan Savickas, Regulatory Policy Manager: "The most resounding successes of this administration have been the rollback and reform of outdated, unnecessary, burdensome regulations. NEPA is yet another example of government putting red tape where it doesn't belong. These increasingly complex rules have been in place for almost five decades. We applaud the administration for initiating this overdue reform and look forward to the possibilities under a simpler framework."

[GAIN Coalition, Craig Stevens, Spokesman](#): "GAIN applauds President Trump's action for taking steps to modernize outdated regulations that have hindered American investment and development of our nation's energy infrastructure. While NEPA's fundamental goal of carefully considering the environmental impact of major projects is important, unnecessary bureaucratic delays should not come at the expense of American jobs and critical infrastructure improvements. Anti-energy activists have weaponized NEPA to prevent development of our nation's energy resources: A dangerous risk considering the ongoing global uncertainty in the Middle East and South America. . . .Environmental stewardship and responsible development of our energy resources should go hand-in-hand. The proposed changes to NEPA maintain the importance of environmental protections while also ensuring regulatory certainty, limiting red tape, and streamlining the permitting and approval process for key infrastructure projects that will benefit millions of American families."

The Heritage Foundation, Diane Katz, Senior Research Fellow: “The Administration’s proposed reforms of the NEPA target some of the worst regulatory barriers that inflate the costs of repairing the nation’s roads, bridges, airports and railways. The streamlining provisions, if enacted, would reduce project delays and expedite the benefits of modern—and safer—infrastructure. In fact, the NEPA is entirely out of sync with current environmental, political, social, and economic realities, and outright repeal would not make a whit of difference to the environment or public health.”

Independent Petroleum Association of America, Dan Naatz, Senior Vice President, **Government Relations and Political Affairs**: “IPAA is pleased that the Administration continues to tackle substantial projects, such as their effort to return the NEPA process to the original intent and scope of the law. Although IPAA and our members recognize the important role NEPA plays in public land policy, for many years we have seen the law being abused by environmentalists with extreme agendas to delay and halt various multiple-use activities on federal lands, including oil and gas production. The NEPA process was established over forty years ago to ensure an appropriate level of environmental protection is achieved, however, there are many projects that can move forward with the flexibility granted through an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Just as the geology, hydrology, and topography of our federal lands differ from state to state, so too should the NEPA process become more project-based rather than one-size-fits-all.”

Interstate Natural Gas Association of America: “The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is an important law that is intended to ensure good public policy and informed decision-making. However, since the law passed 50 years ago, the corresponding NEPA regulations have not undergone a significant review. The lack of clarity in the existing NEPA regulations has led courts to fill the gaps, spurring costly litigation, and has led to unclear expectations, which has caused significant and unnecessary delays for infrastructure projects across the country. The Council on Environmental Quality's proposed rule is an important step in restoring the intent of NEPA by ensuring that federal agencies focus their attention on significant impacts to the environment that are relevant to their decision-making authorities. Restoring efficiency in the NEPA review process will enhance safety, improve environmental outcomes, and ultimately deliver cost benefits to consumers.”

JunkScience.com, Steve Milloy, President: “It’s fantastic that the Trump administration is streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Since its enactment 50 years ago, NEPA has been twisted into an unrecognizable means of blocking beneficial development by endless, mindless and often junk science-fueled delays. This is far from NEPA’s original purpose of ensuring that development is consistent with reasonable and science-based environmental protection. This streamlining of NEPA is something Congress should have done long ago, but environmental laws have become another third rail of Washington, DC swamp politics. The Trump administration deserves tremendous credit for having the courage to take on the entrenched anti-development and swamp interests. America's economy and environment will both benefit.”

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Jason Hayes, Director of Environmental Policy: “It is high time an administration had the courage to update the NEPA process and to move our

environmental policy out of the 1970's. Our current process is fixated on a destructive style of political environmentalism that stifles productive activity with bureaucratic process, fear, and litigation. Instead, America should be relying on our improved understanding of environmental science and using new technologies and management techniques to help provide us with necessary resources and infrastructure improvements. For example, whatever one believes about the role of climate in the growing challenge of wildfire, no one can ignore the fact that the NEPA process has become a means of hamstringing forest managers and stopping them from completing essential forest management activities. Effectively locked out of the nation's forests by litigation and procedural delays, we all watch as millions of acres burn, people and wildlife are displaced or killed, and billions in public and private property are lost each year. Updating the NEPA process will not only help to address this growing issue in our nation's forests, it will also help to address similar delays in the development and use of essential domestic energy and mineral reserves. Updating NEPA will also help us to improve and expand on essential infrastructure projects like pipelines, roads, bridges, and 5G wireless. This administration's efforts to take on this daunting task should be applauded by all Americans as they will free American workers and invigorate our economy, while still maintaining essential environmental protections."

National Association of Counties, Matthew Chase, Executive Director and CEO: "As committed stewards of the environment with significant public safety and infrastructure responsibilities, counties support common-sense reforms to federal permitting and regulations. We welcome the administration's focus on streamlining the permitting process, fostering conditions for economic growth and strengthening our nation's infrastructure at the local level. We will continue to work with our federal partners to achieve our shared environmental, economic and infrastructure goals."

National Association of Home Builders, Jerry Howard, CEO: "This proposal to modernize and reform the NEPA review process will streamline the permitting process and reduce unnecessary costs and delays for vital infrastructure projects that are needed to support residential land development projects. For the housing industry, those uncertainties and delays create challenges for communities, business and builders, and further exacerbate the current housing affordability crisis. We welcome this latest action by the administration to remove regulatory barriers that hinder housing and economic growth."

National Association of Manufacturers, Jay Timmons, President and CEO: "President Trump is once again taking action to power our industry—and our economy—forward. The NAM's Building to Win infrastructure plan called for exactly this type of modernization—because our efforts should be used for building the infrastructure Americans desperately need, not wasted on mountains of paperwork and endless delays. . . . We thank the administration for listening to manufacturers—and working to ensure that the 21st-century highways, bridges, power lines, cell towers and more that we rely on get built. Our hope is that these improvements will modernize infrastructure permitting so we can get more shovels in the ground and even more manufacturers to work. Manufacturers will continue keeping our promise to reduce our environmental footprint through innovation and sustainable practices—because we know that economic growth and environmental stewardship can and must go hand-in-hand."

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Ethan Lane, Vice President, Government Affairs: “Whether on public lands or private, ranchers provide critical improvements to rangelands and infrastructure. This includes maintaining fences, water structures, and roads, and reducing fuel loads that cause catastrophic wildfires. Approachable and implementable NEPA rules are necessary for all cattle producers to ensure that they have access to important USDA programs. When NEPA stands in the way of progress, both ranchers and rural communities suffer. Wildlife that depend on water sources, individuals who utilize roadways, and even communities at risk of wildfire are impacted. We need to ensure those common-sense practices that benefit our rangelands are not the subject of unnecessary federal regulation.”

National Mining Association, [Rich Nolan, CEO](#): “The mining industry is all too familiar with the project delays and escalating costs associated with NEPA compliance. Our permitting process is broken, and NEPA’s historical problems play a big part in the unnecessary obstacles standing in the way of the responsible use of our natural resources. Today’s action is a concrete step in the right direction. The proposal reflects the original intent of NEPA, which is to require a hard look at the environmental impacts of major federal projects, not to stop projects in their tracks.”

National Ocean Industries Association, [Erik Milito, President](#): “After nearly four decades, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has become associated with inherent uncertainty, prolonged project delays and stifling of investment. It does not have to remain this way. Today’s proposed NEPA modernization balances the need for infrastructure investment and project development with environmental stewardship. Ultimately, NEPA modernization and clarification will enable a more efficient, effective and timely regulatory process. . . .From agriculture to energy to forestry to manufacturing to transportation, NEPA impacts almost every sector of the U.S. economy. NEPA modernization will help secure investments in U.S. projects, strengthen U.S. job creation and will benefit every American. For NOIA members, smart NEPA reforms can ensure that they are able to continue building a better world through energy security and economic growth and provide a higher standard of living for Americans and consumers throughout the world.”

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, [Jim Matheson, CEO](#): “Regulatory hurdles under NEPA have triggered reliability problems and forced electric co-ops and their communities to endure costly project delays. We support the spirit of NEPA, and these sensible modernizations are long overdue. The updated policy will ensure that environmental reviews and decisions involving multiple agencies are synchronized and efficient. These reforms will provide electric co-ops much-needed clarity and certainty as they continue to diversify their energy portfolios and increase the resiliency of their systems. Both necessitate the modernization or construction of new electric transmission and distribution facilities.”

National Stone, Sand, And Gravel Association, Michele Stanley, Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs: “Years-long delays in permitting infrastructure projects, often caused by duplicative agency actions and unnecessary lawsuits harm many communities ability to construct roads, bridges, highways, airports, and all types of public works projects. That is why the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA) is pleased with the Administration’s ongoing work to streamline unnecessary permitting process and supports this

draft rule which brings much needed modernization and clarity to the NEPA process— while still maintaining strong environmental protections. Today’s action is a critical step in ensuring our nation rebuilds our infrastructure in a more timely manner.”

Natural Gas Supply Association, Dena Wiggins, President and CEO: “We applaud the Administration’s proposal to modernize and clarify NEPA, which will facilitate effective and timely reviews of infrastructure needed to serve consumers, all while ensuring continued thorough and comprehensive environmental reviews and processes. This will provide a clearer roadmap for agencies’ environmental reviews, foster fewer delays and promote better decision-making for vital energy infrastructure.”

Natural Gas Supply Association, Charlie Riedl, Executive Director of CLNG: “With multi-year, billion-dollar projects at stake, certainty is key for the growing U.S. LNG industry. Today’s proposal is a strong step toward providing more clarity in the environmental review process. Modernizing the NEPA process will help U.S. LNG compete in the global marketplace while ensuring rigorous safety and environmental standards.”

New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association, Randell Major, President: “Members of the New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association couldn’t be more excited about the first new NEPA regulations in the last 40 years. NEPA issues have un-necessarily plagued our members for the past few decades. Conservation is key to the livestock community, but federal regulations should not be a vehicle to drive ranch families from the land.”

New Mexico Federal Lands Council, Don L. (Bebo) Lee, President: “Reconsidering NEPA regulations is long overdue. We have been requesting this review for nearly 20 years. Our members have traveled to Congress to testify on the need for change and we are glad to see it coming.”

Off-Road Business Association, Scott Jones, Authorized Representative: “ORBA welcomes discussions with the CEQ to make NEPA more effective and efficient. ORBA believes this will benefit all recreation opportunities on public lands and improve protection of resources. The NEPA process has proven to be a costly burden to the maintenance and operation of basic recreational opportunities. Minor projects are often made more complex by a lack of clarity around the NEPA process and delayed unnecessarily for extensive analysis rather than solving simple challenges. These delays are critical to the many small communities that rely on the economic contributions from recreation.”

Permian Basin Petroleum Association, Ben Shepperd, President: “These overdue NEPA regulatory reforms are an important step in the advancement of effective and efficient energy exploration and development with a focus on actual environmental protection. Such reforms will provide additional tools in pursuit of energy independence while maintaining critical environmental protections and the conservation of natural resources required by law. The members of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association have long believed that environmental stewardship and energy production are not mutually exclusive. We greatly appreciate the administration’s leadership on this important matter.”

Portland Cement Association, Sean O’Neill, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs: “NEPA reform is critical to maintaining a modern, sustainable, and globally competitive US manufacturing base,” said Sean O’Neill, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs at the Portland Cement Association. “Federal permitting requirements should advance our nation’s environmental, energy, and economic goals, not establish procedural roadblocks that prevent access to affordable clean energy, better roads, and resilient critical infrastructure.”

Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, Karen Kerrigan, President and CEO:

“Convoluting regulation disproportionately impacts small businesses, both directly and indirectly. Opportunities are lost to excessive regulation and it erects barriers to business entry and startup activity. This, in turn, hurts innovation and economic vibrancy. Small business owners and entrepreneurs are very pleased to see President Trump taking important steps to modernize NEPA. Small businesses suffer both in terms of competitiveness and growth under the unreasonable delays and bureaucracy associated with environmental reviews for infrastructure projects, which then delays the construction of modern transportation and telecommunications systems that help small firms operate and compete. The review process under NEPA is convoluted and outdated. In this modern era where technology is being used extensively to ease friction and reduce costs, there is no reason why clunky and outdated rules should stand in the way of modern infrastructure projects that will further enhance the environment and economic opportunity. We applaud President Trump and his team, and look forward to working with the Administration on this important initiative for small businesses and our economy.”

U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Tom Donohue, CEO: “If America is to meet its growing challenges on infrastructure, energy and the environment, then we must modernize the 40-year old NEPA process. In many cases, it takes far longer to obtain a permit than it actually takes to build one of these critical projects, and that should not be acceptable. That’s why the Chamber strongly supports the Administration’s efforts to streamline permitting processes, and why we are leading a broad coalition representing the business community and workers to support the new rule. We support NEPA’s requirement for environmental reviews and public input. But too often, the current rules are used as a tool to obstruct important projects, such as highways, bridges, public transit and even renewable energy projects. Reducing delays and uncertainties associated with infrastructure investment and related projects will allow businesses to plan and invest with confidence while enhancing economic productivity and supporting more and better-paying jobs throughout the country.”

Western Energy Alliance, Kathleen Sgamma, President: “For too long, NEPA has become a source of endless delay rather than a tool for helping the government make better, more environmentally sensitive decisions, as originally intended when the law was passed. The new regulations will enable responsible projects to move forward while ensuring environmental protection. Oil and natural gas companies long ago adopted an environmental ethic that guides all they do. By enabling companies to move forward with projects that mitigate impacts, this NEPA rule enables environmental protection along with job creation and economic opportunity.”

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