



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
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## What They Are Saying | CEQ Issues Final Rule to Modernize its NEPA Regulations

*Last week, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced its final rule to comprehensively update and modernize its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations for the first time in over 40 years. The announcement comes after a multi-year review of its NEPA regulations, and after receiving over 1.1 million public comments from a broad range of stakeholders on a variety of issues relating to the regulations, as well as hosting public hearings and conducting other public outreach. For more details, please see a fact sheet on the final rule [here](#).*

*Here's what elected officials and stakeholders are saying in response:*

### Members of Congress

#### Senate

**Chairman John Barrasso (WY), Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works:**

“President Trump is cutting red tape to help get our economy back in the black,” said Chairman Barrasso. “These updates will make the National Environmental Policy Act work better for the American people. Right now, important construction projects are being slowed down because of lengthy government permitting processes and lawsuits. The administration is making this process more predictable and efficient. We can protect the environment and move our economy forward at the same time. This rule gets that done.”

**Chairman Lisa Murkowski (AK), Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:**

“For decades, projects in Alaska and throughout the country have languished as a result of a federal permitting process that has become unnecessarily burdensome due in large part to outdated NEPA regulations. As we work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild the nation’s economy, it’s important we bring our nation’s 1970s-era permitting processes into the 21st century. The President and his advisers deserve credit for leading the charge to update and modernize federal NEPA regulations to responsibly streamline these processes so that critical infrastructure and other important projects can be built in a timely manner.”

**Senator Kevin Cramer (ND):** “President Trump wants to rebuild America’s infrastructure with fewer hurdles from Washington’s overbearing bureaucracy. The National Environmental Policy Act regulations are outdated, burdensome, and unnecessarily complicated. It should not take longer to get the government’s approval for a project than it would take to build it. I support the finalized rule and call on my colleagues to support passing a comprehensive infrastructure package, incorporating the highway reauthorization and water infrastructure bills we unanimously passed through the Environment and Public Works committee.”

**Senator John Hoeven (ND):** “Infrastructure, whether it’s for mitigating natural disasters, producing energy or transporting people and goods, serves as the backbone of our economy,”

said Senator Hoeven. “As we’ve seen with Dakota Access and other projects bogged down through litigation, the federal NEPA review process has often resulted in inflated costs and significant delays for a wide range of vital projects across our nation. This final rule is a welcome effort that builds on our record of providing regulatory certainty for future projects and will help taxpayer dollars go further as we work to build and repair the nation’s infrastructure.”

**Senator Mike Lee (UT):** “I commend @realDonaldTrump for making these long overdue common-sense reforms, but Congress needs to enact further reforms to this outdated process. I will be introducing legislation to further reform NEPA soon.”

**Senator Dan Sullivan (AK):** “Before the ink is even dry on the President’s final rule reforming federal environmental permitting processes, many national media outlets are casting the move as a ‘weakening’ of environmental protections,” said Senator Sullivan. “What is rarely mentioned is the fact that, as they currently stand, these regulations kill jobs. It takes an average of four-and-a-half to six years just to complete an Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA and nine to nineteen years to fully permit a highway in America. Democrats and Republicans agree our infrastructure is in desperate need of revitalization, but the existing NEPA process all but ensures it will be years before we see the jobs and improvements we need—even if we passed a major infrastructure package tomorrow. President Trump and his administration are making the right call to reform our NEPA regulations so that we can protect the environment we all cherish and also bring our highways, airports, harbors and utilities into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I also thank the President and his team for incorporating a significant portion of my *Rebuild America Now Act*, which I’m still working to get through the Senate, to codify realistic NEPA deadlines, simplify NEPA documents, and further streamline the NEPA process. These kinds of reforms are supported by hard-working Alaskans who build big things—pipelines, bridges and roads—and I’m proud to stand with them.”

### **House of Representatives**

**House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23):** “Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in infrastructure development in the United States, illustrating the importance of pursuing commonsense policies and ending ‘paralysis-by-analysis.’ Projects across the United States and in my congressional district will benefit from reduced bureaucratic overreach, while the underlying intent of NEPA, to minimize or eliminate impacts to the environment, will be preserved. I commend President Trump and Council on Environmental Quality Chairman Mary Neumayr for taking this important action today. The updated NEPA guidelines will help our nation remain a global leader in reducing greenhouse emissions while still empowering our country to enhance our infrastructure.”

**House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (LA-01):** “Today’s action by the Trump Administration to modernize the NEPA regulations will cut down on outdated, bureaucratic red-tape obstructing critical national and local infrastructure projects. Energy infrastructure, coastal restoration, and flood protection projects in Louisiana and across the country have long been delayed by a NEPA process that has become overly complex and burdensome. Instead of years-long reviews that produce 600+ page documents, these updated regulations will be more effective and will lead to simpler environmental reviews and more shovels in the ground on projects that will benefit

Americans' everyday lives. I applaud President Trump for his efforts to streamline and modernize NEPA regulations to promote economic growth and eliminate the unnecessary red tape that slows down critical infrastructure projects, all while continuing to protect our environment.”

**House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney (WY-At Large):** “I applaud the Trump administration’s commitment to streamlining burdensome NEPA requirements, which have obstructed energy development and critical infrastructure projects in Wyoming. For too long, NEPA’s out-of-date regulations have been abused by far-left environmental extremists to silence the voice of local stakeholders in our state, delaying vital improvements to Wyoming’s roads, bridges, and waterways. President Trump is continuing to fulfill his promise to get the government off the backs of hardworking Americans by decreasing overreach and red tape.”

**Ranking Member Rob Bishop (UT-01), House Committee on Natural Resources:** “Every administration for the past half a century has tried to untangle the mess Congress created by writing NEPA in the way it did. The House and Senate was smoking something when they enacted the obscure and flowery text of that 1965 law, and since then the courts, private business, and now special interest groups have spent unfathomable resources defining it for them. That’s not the way our form of government is supposed to work. Enacted with noble intent to expand public input and enhance environmentally conscious decisions, NEPA has morphed into a tool for excessive litigation to slow or block economic activity, including crucial projects to support clean water, affordable energy, and essential infrastructure. Today, the Administration made good on another promise to the American people. With this rule, we will have a modern environmental review process and greater regulatory certainty. Work in Congress remains to build upon and reinforce the critical work enshrined in this rule.”

**Ranking Member Sam Graves (MO-06), House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:** “The slow, inefficient, and costly federal review and permitting processes continue to be an impediment to the improvement of America’s infrastructure. I commend the Administration for its efforts to modernize the decades-old NEPA process. Committee Republicans agree with this necessary step, which is why we included similar streamlining provisions in our surface transportation reauthorization bill, [the STARTER Act](#). Updating NEPA will save taxpayers’ money while maintaining necessary protections for the environment, public safety, and human health.”

**Ranking Member Greg Walden (OR-2), House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Ranking Member Fred Upton (MI-06), Subcommittee on Energy; Ranking Member John Shimkus (IL-15), Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change; and Ranking Member Bob Latta (OH-05), Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:** “While we must ensure strong environmental standards and protections, it is long past time to update NEPA to improve its processes. This 50-year-old law to facilitate federal decisions has morphed into a costly, burdensome, bureaucratic review process, producing hundreds of pages of reports and years of unnecessary delays and uncertainty for vital infrastructure projects around the nation. These outdated and inefficient regulations unnecessarily increase costs of public and private infrastructure projects, and result in millions of dollars in lawsuits. Today’s final rule provides much-needed updates that will restore NEPA to its original purpose of promoting smart

decision making, maintaining environmental quality, and allowing for innovative, resilient infrastructure. We will continue to work with CEQ as this rule takes effect.”

**Ranking Member Greg Walden (OR-2), House Energy and Commerce Committee:** “Rural Oregonians know too well the burdens of our dated, slow and tedious NEPA regulations. They’ve watched for years as special interest groups have hijacked the process to drag out needed forest and range management projects that would improve the health of our public lands and reduce the threat of wildfire on our communities. A lot has changed in the last 40 years and a fresh look at these regulations is long overdue. President Trump’s actions to streamline this process will help ensure that we can better manage our forests, protect our communities and improve our nation’s transportation and energy infrastructure into the future.”

**Congressman Ralph Abraham, M.D. (LA-05):** “If our country is serious about cutting red tape, fostering growth in the private sector, and paving the way for a major infrastructure renewal, streamlining the NEPA review process is a critical step. This final rule is proof that we can protect our environment without sacrificing growth and opportunity. I applaud President Trump for satisfying yet another promise in his pro-growth agenda that will benefit the American people in many ways.”

**Congressman Larry Bucshon, M.D. (IN-08):** “The current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process drowns much-needed infrastructure projects in unnecessary and outdated, bureaucratic red tape that costs local communities and businesses millions of dollars on lawyers and consultants. I am pleased to see the Trump Administration take much needed action in reforming and modernizing NEPA. These finalized changes will help streamline the federal permitting process and eliminate burdensome Washington red tape by improving coordination, setting time limits, and reducing frivolous litigation. The Trump Administration’s changes to NEPA put in place badly-needed commonsense reforms that ensure that the infrastructure projects crucial to growing our economy are completed in a timely and efficient manner while simultaneously maintaining high environmental protection standards.”

**Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (TX-26):** “The Trump Administration’s efforts in modernizing the NEPA carefully weighs the needs of our 21st century economy with the responsibility of being good shepherds of the nation’s environment and resources. By making these important changes, such as establishing reasonable time limits, streamlining inter-agency coordination, and reducing unnecessary paperwork, the Trump administration is removing federal barriers to developing a cleaner, more productive infrastructure system. The burdensome permitting procedures of NEPA have blocked the development of important systems such as pipelines, wind farms, interstate highways, and transmission lines. America can both manage its environmental impacts and address the needs of our nation for today and tomorrow.”

**Congressman Ken Calvert (CA-42):** “Building the infrastructure our country desperately needs and protecting our environment are not mutually exclusive goals. The updates being made to NEPA today will enable communities across the country to build the infrastructure necessary to support their economic growth in a timely manner that maintains balanced environmental protections.”

**Congressman James Comer (KY-01):** “President Trump’s bold action is a necessary step toward ensuring that costly and duplicate regulations do not slow down much needed infrastructure projects in America,” said Congressman Comer. “Safely streamlining the environmental regulatory process will help expedite important projects, put Americans to work and unleash economic growth here at home.”

**Congressman Paul Cook (CA-08):** “This important rule change will streamline the environmental review and permitting process for critical infrastructure projects. The current process is fraught with bureaucratic red tape and onerous requirements, often needlessly delaying projects for years. I applaud the administration and the CEQ for implementing the new rule.”

**Congressman Russ Fulcher (ID-01):** “These much needed updates to the NEPA process will be a relief for Idaho and the many projects that have been blocked or delayed by unnecessary litigation and red tape. I applaud the Trump Administration for making these improvements to NEPA, and for prioritizing the need to reform bureaucratic, costly regulations that are holding our country back.”

**Congressman Paul Gosar (AZ-04), Chairman, Congressional Western Caucus:** “Today’s announcement by the President that we are updating NEPA is welcome news for everyone in America who likes to see America build things and grow. For too long, NEPA has grown stale, wrapped in judicial decisions, lengthy paperwork requirements and more. What was originally just a checklist for project take off has become a process and court mandated demand for every possible consideration, theory and potential impact for entire industries wrapped onto one project. From offshore wind in the Atlantic to solar transmission in the southwest, and pipelines nationwide, we have seen the burden these impacts take in time, and project delays cost everyone: workers, consumers, and taxpayers. This new rule will make NEPA modern, it will speed planning, increase citizen engagement, and allow America to build great things once again.”

**Congressman Dusty Johnson (SD-At Large):** “The United States should always strive to be ahead of the curve for infrastructure and advancement while balancing environmental concerns. The modernization of the NEPA process is long overdue and will ensure critically important infrastructure projects are completed without bureaucratic delay.”

**Congressman Mike Johnson (LA-04):** “For years, Louisianians have watched as the radical Left has twisted NEPA to kill critical infrastructure projects designed to improve quality of life and foster economic growth. In my home district, a desperately needed project that would add just three miles of highway to connect Interstate 49 through Shreveport has been bogged down in the environmental review process for more than seven years with no end in sight. President Trump understands better than anyone that modernizing NEPA is key to getting Americans back to work and rebuilding our nation’s crumbling infrastructure. By cutting red tape and pushing commonsense reform across the federal government, the Trump administration and Republican-led Congress built the strongest, most prosperous economy in the history of our country. With bold, decisive action like this updated rule, I have every confidence that President Trump can help America do it again.”

**Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01), Vice-Chairman for Agriculture and Chief Business Officer, Congressional Western Caucus:** “NEPA’s review processes are severely outdated, and as a result, it often takes years for important infrastructure projects to be approved. Too often, the unnecessary bureaucracy gets in the way of building water storage, roads, bridges, and other projects in a timely manner. Today’s final rule modernizes the environmental review process, and in turn, will speed up infrastructure projects that are much-needed across America. I’m glad the Trump Administration has finally cut the red tape around updating our infrastructure by streamlining the NEPA process.”

**Congressman Doug Lamborn (CO-05), Vice-Chairman for Defense and Veterans Affairs, Congressional Western Caucus:** “President Trump has consistently fought to overhaul duplicative and burdensome regulations. These updated NEPA regulations will streamline infrastructure development, reduce project costs, and provide much needed certainty to the permitting process. For far too long environmental extremists have weaponized the permitting process to block or needlessly delay critical infrastructure projects. These new reforms will drastically improve the decision making processes while also maintaining appropriate environmental protections and opportunities for public input. I am grateful that the President continues to prioritize the revitalization of America.”

**Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-3):** “Enacted to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with federal infrastructure and economic development projects, today’s NEPA permitting process has become overly complicated and burdensome. In districts throughout the country, including Oklahoma’s Third Congressional District, our communities rely on the investments of infrastructure and economic development projects, like building better roads and bridges or laying broadband. Yet sadly, many of these projects are often delayed or restricted hindering the positive impact these critical projects will have. Today’s NEPA reform is a return to a more streamlined process, cutting bureaucratic red tape and allowing for infrastructure and economic development projects to come online faster, all while ensuring we continue to protect and maintain the highest standards of environmental stewardship. I applaud the Trump Administration and the CEQ for their efforts in making the NEPA work as efficiently as possible for my fellow Oklahomans, and for continuing to bring our regulations into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

**Congressman Roger Marshall, M.D. (KS-01):** “I applaud President’s Trump’s actions in updating and streamlining NEPA regulations, paving the way for more timely, community-focused investments in critical infrastructure projects. Too often, outdated rules and bureaucratic red tape add unnecessary hurdles to these much-needed projects, creating a costly and time-consuming process for communities. These commonsense reforms will encourage economic growth while continuing to protect our environment for future generations.”

**Congressman Alex X. Mooney (WV-02):** “For far too long NEPA regulations have been outdated and excessive. These overly burdensome regulations delay construction projects that create jobs and improve our infrastructure. Thanks to the leadership of President Trump, this new, effective system for environment reviews will help grow our economy and modernize our roads, bridges and highways.”

**Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02):** “NEPA regulations affect a wide range of projects from construction of roads to land and forest management, but the current regulations have become overbearing and difficult for people to navigate. This new rule will allow us to move faster on infrastructure projects while still ensuring we keep our environment safe and clean. Thank you, President Trump for cutting the red tape and removing job-killing regulations.”

**Congressman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Vice-Chairman for Departments of Interior and Energy, Congressional Western Caucus:** “Overregulation and unnecessary permitting delays have had negative impacts on our communities for decades, especially in rural areas. NEPA in its current form exemplifies ‘bureaucratic red tape’ – with evaluations taking up to 6 years to complete. Our constituents cannot afford these delays when trying to renew, maintain, or develop critical infrastructure projects across the country. Earlier this year, Republican Whip Scalise and I led 130 Members of Congress in a letter to support CEQ’s efforts to modernize NEPA, and I am glad to see the Administration following through on this regulatory relief. This rule will finally allow for a streamlined permitting approach, encourage environmental stewardship, and incentivize investment in our rural communities across the West and beyond.”

**Congressman Pete Olson (TX-22):** “While we need a proper review process for infrastructure projects, the NEPA process has stymied needed development to strengthen our communities,” Congressman Olson said. “This update was sorely needed to streamline the environmental review process and move needed projects forward. I applaud the president for this rule change that will ensure that our critical infrastructure projects are not held up by litigation and the heavy hand of Washington.”

**Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08):** “Reform of a broken and cumbersome NEPA process is vital for northern Minnesota. We need mining, road and bridge construction, harbor maintenance, renewable energy development, pipeline building, and electricity transmission if we are to compete with the rest of the world while providing high-wage jobs. Unfortunately, any progress on these projects has been hijacked time and again by well-funded activist groups working under the guise of conservation. Therefore, I applaud President Trump, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the rest of the Administration for rightfully moving forward with these commonsense reforms. I look forward to working with the Administration and putting northern Minnesota back to work.”

**Congressman Chris Stewart (UT-02):** “NEPA was intended to lead to more informed decision making for federal projects, but it has become an expensive hinderance to getting infrastructure in place. I am happy to see changes that increase efficiency and effectiveness of NEPA for infrastructure projects.”

**Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04), Vice-Chairman for Infrastructure and Forestry, Congressional Western Caucus:** “NEPA is based on a good idea – oversight on government projects – but over the years it has morphed into a weapon for litigious environmental groups. Now, NEPA has become the most litigated environmental law in the country, delaying critical construction and infrastructure projects across America. This is untenable. The administration’s NEPA rule changes would set time limits for environmental reviews, clarify where NEPA applies, reduce frivolous litigation, cut back on unnecessary paperwork and more, maintaining

the parts of NEPA that are effective and eliminating those that aren't. I applaud President Trump's commitment to reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens."

**Congressman Don Young (AK-At Large), Vice-Chairman for Indian Affairs and Fisheries, Congressional Western Caucus:** "When Congress originally drafted and passed NEPA, it was to be a simple, streamlined process. However, it has grown into a bureaucratic and lawsuit-prone monstrosity that has far exceeded its original congressional intent. The NEPA process is long, arduous, and frequently takes many years to complete. The Golden Gate Bridge and the Hoover Dam were finished in under a year; had NEPA existed then, this may not have been the case. There is no reason that these or other federal projects should be delayed by federal red tape. I applaud President Trump for recognizing the great regulatory burden of NEPA and taking action to reform the process."

## **Governors and Other State Government Officials**

### **Alaska**

**Governor Mike Dunleavy (AK):** "Over the past 40 years, these regulations have strangled the American dream for so many Alaskans," said Governor Mike Dunleavy. "These long-awaited reforms are a ray of hope for those who have suffered the impacts of federal overreach in my home state. Lifting the regulatory burden will spur responsible natural resource development in Alaska, creating jobs and economic opportunity while still protecting the environment."

**Jason Brune, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation:** "CEQ's revised NEPA regulations acknowledge that responsible development and timely permitting can go hand in hand. Changes like these will improve predictability for the investment community and will hopefully slow the exodus of critical natural resource development to other nations where environmental oversight is often an afterthought. Kudos to CEQ and President Trump."

### **Arkansas**

**Governor Asa Hutchinson (AR):** "I was glad to see today's long-overdue modernization of NEPA. These changes will cut unnecessary red-tape and jumpstart stalled infrastructure projects in Arkansas and across the country, while ensuring that we remain good stewards of the environment."

### **Arizona**

**Buster Johnson, Supervisor, Mohave County, District 3:** "This is a much-needed modernization of the NEPA process that considers both the environmental costs as well as the economic benefits of projects being developed on federal lands. These updated NEPA rules are concerns Mohave County has been advocating for a long time. By proposing a time limits of two years for completion of an EIS and one year for completion of an environmental assessments (EAs), this new process will relieve unnecessary burdens and extravagant costs that project developers, government officials, and the public were all facing in the past. Limits like this have



been a long time coming, and I am extremely glad to see them included in this new rule. I want to applaud the Council on Environmental Quality for all their hard work on these much-needed updates.”

**Misael Cabrera, P.E , Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:**

“This Final Rule adds much needed clarity to both substantive and administrative aspects of NEPA. In addition, we appreciate the recognition that environmental impacts felt by Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes is not limited to lands within reservation boundaries.”

**Colorado**

**Ray Beck, Chairman, Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado:** “NEPA has a history of being manipulated by special interest groups who effectively prevent federal land management from being implemented. The revised NEPA rules are a positive step to meaningfully involve the public and local governments in effective, responsible and positive land management decisions.”

**Libby Szabo, County Commissioner, Jefferson County:** “The EPA got a win, win for all sides with updating the NEPA process. Not only will it make it more efficient to the folks who are building the country's infrastructure and give more certainty to the process. It will also fulfill the EPA’s main mission to protect our environment and the people living in our communities.”

**Georgia**

**Governor Brian Kemp (GA):** “By cutting outdated regulations, this regulatory reform will reduce burdensome bureaucracy without compromising environmental protection. I want to thank President Trump and the Council on Environmental Quality for their strong leadership on this issue. Working together, we will continue to cut red tape to support our job creators and create economic opportunity for the American people.”

**Chris Carr, Attorney General (GA):** “This January, the Trump administration proposed the first comprehensive reforms to NEPA since 1978. The goal is a more efficient, effective and timely federal review process that addresses 50 years of federal mission creep and duplicative regulatory authority among a growing number of agencies...Overlapping jurisdictions complicate the federal review process and bury local leaders under the weight of red tape, agency redundancies and conflicting regulations. The proposed reforms to NEPA establish clearer lines of authority and consolidate the decision-making process while furthering our national commitment to environmental protection... The Trump administration’s proposed improvements to the NEPA process are long overdue. They deserve our enthusiastic support to ensure Georgia’s economic competitiveness, public safety and efficient environmental protection.”

**Brandon Beach, State Senator, District 21:** “Proud to join @realDonaldTrump today as he visits ATL to announce his move expediting infrastructure projects GA desperately needs. He’s following through on his promises and dismantling the bureaucratic mess DC has created over the last few decades. Thank you Mr. President!”

**Tyler Harper, State Senator, District 7:** “Great to be with President Donald Trump as he visited Georgia today to announce their continued efforts to streamline the federal regulatory process. This announcement goes a long way in expediting infrastructure projects, reducing project costs, and shortening the timeframe for approval from up to 20 or more years to just 2 years. President Trump and his administration continue to make good on their promises! This announcement is huge for our state - thank you Mr. President!”

**David Ralston, Speaker of Georgia House of Representatives, State Representative, District 7:** “I appreciate President Trump returning to our state to discuss an issue Georgia has been a leader on for many years — infrastructure. From deepening our ports to expanding capacity on our interstates, Georgia has invested resources in keeping people moving and our economy growing. I thank the President for his commitment to supporting our continued growth and prosperity by cutting needless red tape which slows progress and wastes taxpayer dollars.”

**Vernon Jones, State Representative, District 91:** “@POTUS visited the Peach State 2day to boost transportation, job creation, and economic development projects. He’s cut highway regulations from 10 years to 2 for approval. It’s clear to us, @realDonaldTrump has Georgia On His Mind!”

**Jan Jones, State Representative, District 47:** “Grateful for the partnership with the @WhiteHouse and @POTUS to continue regulatory reform and increase investment in GA’s infrastructure! This will [be] good for our interstates, like GA 400!”

**Liz Hausmann, Commissioner, Fulton County, District 1:** “At #UPS in #Atlanta to see @realDonaldTrump make a major transportation announcement that will take years off construction projects. Good for Ga. Good for the #USA...Thank you, Mr. President!”

## **Idaho**

**Governor Brad Little (ID):** “I applaud President Trump’s efforts to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposed updates will reduce barriers to prosperity, improve public participation, and create certainty while upholding essential environmental safeguards. The much-needed updates will allow Idaho to move at the speed of business, creating jobs and improving our infrastructure and natural resources – something that’s more important now than ever before.”

## **Iowa**

**Governor Kim Reynolds (IA):** “President Trump has made it a priority to reduce excessive and burdensome regulations that restrict innovation and slow economic growth. For decades, NEPA strangled our economy with excessive paperwork, litigation, and delays. Modernizing these regulations will balance environmental protections with common sense practices benefiting Iowa taxpayers and the entire economy.”

**John H. Wills, State Representative, House District 1:** “The National Environmental Policy Act affects our everyday lives from the construction of roads, bridges, highways, and airports to

conventional and renewable energy projects, water infrastructure, and even loans for small businesses and family farms. The final rule ensures that Federal agencies consider all significant effects that are reasonably foreseeable and have a reasonably close causal relationship to the proposed action. This is a reasonable approach while at the same time protecting our environment and fragile systems.”

## **Minnesota**

**Randy Maluchnik, Commissioner, Carver County, District 3:** “As major owners and operators of our local transportation and infrastructure systems, Carver County appreciates the Council on Environmental Quality’s efforts to streamline the federal permitting process and eliminate unnecessary delays for county road and bridge projects. Safeguarding the health and vibrance of our local communities should be balanced with commonsense permitting reforms that reduce red tape and facilitate the delivery of projects that enhance safety, connectedness and our local and regional economies.”

## **Mississippi**

**Governor Tate Reeves (MS):** “President Trump and his Administration continue to make great strides in ensuring and protecting the future of our nation’s natural beauty and resources. With the White House’s Council on Environmental Quality updating the National Environmental Policy Act and modernizing burdensome regulations, it will not only benefit our environment but our economy as well. Which means we all win.”

**Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce:** “Today President Donald J. Trump’s Council on Environmental Quality released modernized National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Commissioner Andy Gipson applauded this move saying, “This will reduce burdens on agricultural businesses that provide food, fiber and fuel for Mississippi and the country. Farmers are the original conservationists because they depend on our natural resources. Modernizing NEPA will keep our environment safe while decreasing costs to business, commerce and consumers.”

## **Montana**

**Steve Gunderson, State Representative, House District 1:** “We, in Western Montana, are drowning in a sea of red tape. An outdated NEPA, badly needing updating, does not meet the current needs of prudent, timely and trusted environmental review. NEPA is weaponized to add decades to environmental review to ultimately be litigated by one organization just to be re-litigated by another organization waiting in the wings. We need one-time, non-frivolous litigation with a quick judgement that the project either passes environmental review or fails. Once a review has been made, the project should be shielded from further litigation. I believe the proposed NEPA reform answers these needs.”

**Becky Beard, State Representative, House District 80:** “The Trump Administration’s ‘One Federal Decision’ policy updates and streamlines the NEPA process. These efforts are to be applauded. Not only will the public participation process be concluded in the early phases, but the overall environmental review process will be accelerated while maintaining emphasis on the

management of our Federal lands and waters, and to our overall environment. Delays and project cost overruns will be minimized, and many of the unnecessary litigation efforts can be reduced. The allowance for other agencies to utilize other CatEx determinations will also promote efficiencies in the overall process.”

## **Nebraska**

**Governor Pete Ricketts (NE):** “Thank you to President Trump for modernizing the 50-year old National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations to facilitate more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews by simplifying and clarifying regulatory requirements. The new rule will significantly reduce the amount of time allowed to complete NEPA reviews and save Nebraska taxpayers millions of dollars.”

**Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy:** “Nebraska has a long history of local and state agencies effectively and efficiently managing our natural resources together. The final NEPA rule allows for better coordination between federal agencies and stakeholders, including states, while reducing duplications of effort and resulting in better informed and timelier NEPA reviews.”

## **Nevada**

**Leo Blundo, Commissioner, Nye County, District 4:** “We all agree that environmental considerations are important, we want to leave our kids a better world. However, NEPA has been used to delay or bureaucratically kill almost every project proposed if any federal decision is involved. In an area like Nye County where 98 percent of the land is under federal control every project we need requires a federal decision and must follow NEPA. The challenge is NEPA has become unworkable. The federal bureaucracy has evolved to avoid litigation so every NEPA study has become a never ending money pit which bogs down almost every project. So any changes that will reduce the time and money spent on NEPA while still providing for informed decisions is a win-win for everyone, government, businesses, and the public we serve. We are hopeful that these changes will provide for jobs and economic development in rural areas like Nye County while keeping public lands open for everyone’s enjoyment.”

## **New Mexico**

**James Townsend, State Representative, District 54:** “I am pleased to support this worthwhile effort that not only continues to protect and preserve our environment but also enables and allows job creation and future economic prosperity. Thank you Mr. President.”

**William E. Cavin, Chairman, Chaves County Commission:** “The NEPA environmental review process is incredibly burdensome to local governments as well as business. The current process takes years to complete. The CEQ Final Rule sets common sense time limits and clarifies when NEPA applies. I applaud the Administration for undertaking these much needed updates to NEPA.”

## **North Dakota**

**Governor Doug Burgum (ND):** “Modernizing our roads, pipelines, flood protection and other critical infrastructure is crucial to the safety and economic success of North Dakotans and all Americans, and such projects deserve a timely, efficient and effective environmental review. The 40-year-old NEPA process has become overly complex and time-consuming, resulting in unnecessary delays, litigation and inflated costs that ultimately fall on taxpayers. We appreciate the Trump administration and CEQ for finalizing these streamlined, common-sense rules, which will return the process to the original spirit of NEPA by ensuring timely reviews, retaining the focus on environmental stewardship and expanding public participation.”

**Brent Sanford, Lieutenant Governor (ND):** “We appreciate the White House Council on Environmental Quality for finalizing this streamlined, common-sense NEPA process, ensuring timely reviews, retaining the original spirit of environmental stewardship and expanding public participation.”

## **Oklahoma**

**Governor Kevin Stitt (OK):** “Today’s update to the regulations for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act are a welcomed improvement. For far too long, activists have weaponized NEPA as a way to delay and deny important federal projects. This Rule helps pave the way for projects to have the proper environmental reviews, but get completed in a reasonable amount of time.”

**Ken Wagner, Secretary, Oklahoma Department of Energy and Environment:** “Today’s NEPA reform is a welcomed relief. This important reform will make sure that future NEPA reviews are evidence based and focused on the relevant environmental issues, and the real impacts of these important projects. We are delighted that this rule puts these NEPA reviews back in line with what Congress intended.”

## **Pennsylvania**

**Christian Y. Leinbach, Chairman, Berks County Commissioners:** “The NEPA process has been cumbersome, unpredictable and costly for Berks County and often has little or nothing to do with protecting the environment. As a County Commissioner I welcome these common sense reforms by the White House’s Council on Environmental Quality as well as the leadership of the Trump administration in leading meaningful reform.”

## **South Dakota**

**Governor Kristi Noem (SD):** “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.”

## Tennessee

**Governor Bill Lee (TN):** “The American people deserve an effective and efficient federal government, and I’m very pleased to see President Trump and his administration cutting bureaucratic red tape so that federal projects can be approved and completed in a more timely manner.”

## Texas

**Governor Greg Abbott (TX):** “I applaud the CEQ’s efforts to streamline the NEPA review process, reduce unnecessary and redundant regulatory burdens, and clarify longstanding CEQ regulations. Restoring efficiency in the NEPA review process will enhance public safety, improve environmental outcomes, and deliver cost benefits to consumers. I strongly support programmatic NEPA reform at the CEQ and individual agency levels, and look forward to its implementation.”

**Ken Paxton, Attorney General (TX):** “Proud to support @realDonaldTrump for his strong stance against overreaching job-killing government regulations.”

## Utah

**Governor Gary Herbert (UT):** “I appreciate the Trump Administration’s work to modernize NEPA, which was long overdue. 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.”

**Leland F. Pollock, Chairman, Garfield County Commission:** “Anyone that enjoys the blessings of Public Lands owes this President a huge debt of gratitude. Multiple use of our Public Lands is what they were created for. Multiple use means all Americans should be able to use them. Single use special interest groups have been working for many years to lock everything up. The NEPA revisions will help all Americans have access to our Nations greatest assets, Public Lands. Thank you President Donald Trump.”

**Tammy Pearson, Commissioner, Beaver County:** “We are hopeful that the new CEQ guidelines on NEPA will encourage a more timely process that considers local input, impacts and preferred alternatives. As locally elected County Commissioners, we especially appreciate this Administration’s attention to negative impacts to local projects caused by a burdensome NEPA document.”

## West Virginia

**Gary Howell, Delegate, District 56:** “I want to thank President Trump for moving forward with policies to reduce the regulatory chains holding back American job creation. The reforms of NEPA will pay dividends into the future by allowing Americans, and specifically West Virginians, to have growing job opportunities.”

## Wyoming

**Governor Mark Gordon (WY):** “An update to the NEPA regulations is long overdue. There is little doubt that the implementation of NEPA has evolved from scientific consideration of the environmental impacts of proposed major Federal actions to a frequently burdensome tactic used to obstruct development. The Administration's effort to revise the regulations to streamline the overall process is most welcome.”

**Dan Laursen, State Representative, District 25:** “Finally, after 40 some years, we have a President who took on the task of updating the NEPA regulations with vengeance and the administration has come up with new and improved regulations. NEPA’s original intent will still be met, where government agency decision makers will still need to consider alternatives to major actions, the public will be invited to participate before the action is taken and any consequences that may result in the action must be considered, all in a set amount of time. Not 4.5 years on average that it takes now but limited to 2 years. And a reduction in frivolous litigation is the most important part. Thank you President Trump.”

**Robert Short, Chairman, Converse County Commissioners:** “The Trump administration is clearing the clutter associated with years of apathy in our federal leadership. NEPA has been a shining example of bureaucratic swamp waters that seek to justify existence through the unnecessary burdening of our innovative people when they seek to provide economic growth for our country utilizing our lands and resources. As a county commissioner and small business owner/operator, I have experienced firsthand the effects of this job-killing tactic. President Trump has shown a bright light on the darkness that has sought to stymie our country and has taken powerful steps to clear the minefields which hamper our ability to be energy independent and economically stable. Kudos to our President for his willingness to drain the swamp and help our nation grow. NEPA will no longer be a tool used to kill opportunity and stifle our growth. Thank you President Trump!”

**Joel Bousman, Commissioner, Sublette County:** “In Sublette County, Wyoming, it took 15 years to complete the NEPA required to simply renew livestock grazing in the Upper Green River Valley in western Wyoming. The Final Rule will appropriately address the time required for a decision. Sublette County, Wyoming is in strong support of CEQ’s Final Rule updating its NEPA Regulations.”

## **Associations, Labor Unions, and Other Stakeholders**

**Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona, Chris Udall, Executive Director:** “It’s the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! It is far past time that we update and streamline this 40-year-old rule with a new, more efficient and effective system that works for the regulated community. New and improved is what we’re after and we thank the Trump Administration for listening to our desires for a better process. We can have a swifter process while also protecting the environment. We can have it both ways!”

**Agricultural Retailers Association, Daren Coppock, President and CEO:** “The final rule will speed up the approval process for much-needed infrastructure projects, which will especially

benefit the rural communities in which ag retailers and their customers live and work. The rule does not compromise environmental reviews or public input, in fact the rule will enhance the public's involvement through better coordination of hearings and more concise, accessible documents for review.”

**American Conservative Union, Matt Schlapp, Chairman:** “President Trump wants to end the decades-old approach of money intended for infrastructure projects being spent on countless environmental studies, designed simply to delay those projects from ever moving forward. The Council on Environmental Quality finalization of proposed rules on modernizing the National Environmental Policy Act regulations will end this practice of obstruction through regulation. These new rules will hold Federal agencies accountable to use the money for what it is intended to do, and that’s improving infrastructure for communities in need. Left-wing bureaucrats have spent year after year spending money on endless studies that prevent real improvements to America’s infrastructure. These new rules will put a stop to those tactics. ACU strongly supports this modernization initiative.”

**American Energy Alliance, Thomas Pyle, President:** “The American Energy Alliance applauds the administration's modernization of the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA is one of the most inefficient, growth-slowing, infrastructure-stopping laws we have in the U.S., and was in desperate in need of this modernization. Americans need (and deserve) updated infrastructure to get them safely where they need to go and to ensure affordable, reliable energy arrives to their cities, communities, businesses, and homes. Radical environmental groups have twisted the intent behind NEPA and leveraged the legal system to their advantage in a coordinated effort to slow and stop progress. This long overdue modernization will get American infrastructure projects out of the courtroom and onto the construction site.”

**American Exploration & 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 the minerals needed for our way of life and virtually every sector of our economy including infrastructure, healthcare, renewable energy, and all types of manufacturing. The final rule announced today is a positive step toward a more effective permitting system while maintaining important environmental safeguards and ensuring meaningful public involvement and participation in the NEPA process.”

**American Exploration & Production Council, Anne Bradbury, CEO:** “Modernizing and clarifying NEPA could not come at a better time for our country, as we are recovering from COVID-19. NEPA permitting reforms will allow the U.S. to safely explore and produce energy, provide job opportunities to American communities, build the infrastructure needed to meet growing energy demands and expand our national economy, especially in those communities that do not have adequate access to oil and natural gas. American energy companies adhere to the most stringent regulations in the world, and often go above and beyond legal and regulatory



requirements to reduce our industry's environmental footprint. The Administration's modernization of NEPA will allow for continued energy production and exploration in an environmentally protective way, which will help attract investment and get these projects through the permitting process – things that are vital to our ability to help spur job creation and economic growth. CEQ's modernization returns NEPA back to its initial purpose and the American people.”

**American Farm Bureau Federation, Scott VanderWal, Vice 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 Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, Chet Thompson, President and CEO:** “We believe this new rule provides a needed update of the processes and procedures that govern the permitting of our nation's most vital infrastructure projects, allowing them to move forward without undue delay while ensuring our shared goal of proper environmental stewardship. It also creates greater predictability around the federal permitting process, providing businesses the necessary confidence to invest in important projects that will create thousands of jobs and enliven our economy.”

**American Gas Association, Karen Harbert, President and CEO:** “More than 179 million Americans use natural gas in their homes and one new customer signs up every minute which requires expanding and maintaining our world-class energy infrastructure. America's natural gas utilities are making significant investments in modernizing our vast pipeline network while also drastically reducing the emissions profile for each customer through energy efficiency gains and advanced technologies. A reformed permitting process will enable natural gas utilities to continue to deliver affordable and clean natural gas which will be essential for our nation's economic revival and achieving our shared environmental goals.”

**American Highway Users Alliance, Laura Perrotta, President and CEO:** “Today's final rule modernizes our 50-year old NEPA law and implements commonsense improvements to NEPA's critical review process. Americans can now unlock essential infrastructure investment for vital projects across the nation. The final rule balances modernizing the NEPA process and protecting the environment. In recent years, NEPA's complex administrative procedures have ensnared a wide range of economic sectors from transportation to construction to agriculture. Environmental review is an important component of any infrastructure project but a multi-year, duplicative, and drawn out process is not necessary and only thwarts completion of beneficial projects including important projects that benefit all highway users. Ringing NEPA into the 21st Century will speed up the permitting for infrastructure projects and will allow Americans to have access to safer roads sooner as the latest roadway safety features are likely to be included in new or updated projects. This is all the more important given that people are eager to get out on the road now that stay-at-home orders are being lifted in certain parts of the country. A quicker kickoff for roadway projects will also lead to reduced emissions. The freer flowing traffic will ease congestion and will use modern technologies that are more respectful of environmental concerns

than they were decades ago. Today's announcement reflects necessary and long-overdue improvements that will unravel the red tape that has tied up and even derailed vital road projects while ensuring thoughtful and complete environmental reviews."

**American Legislative Exchange Council, Lisa B. Nelson, CEO:** "As America begins to reopen the economy, President Trump's modernization of the NEPA review process will jump start infrastructure projects all over the country and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. From shipyards and airports to roads and bridges, America needs to update its infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For too long, the NEPA review process stalled the construction of new infrastructure projects that power modern life. Let's cut red tape and build the infrastructure that makes America great."

**American Petroleum Institute, Mike Sommers, CEO:** "NEPA modernization will help America streamline permitting to move job-creating infrastructure projects off the drawing board and into development," API President and CEO Mike Sommers said. "Today's action is essential to U.S. energy leadership and environmental progress, providing more certainty to jumpstart not only the modernized pipeline infrastructure we need to deliver cleaner fuels but highways, bridges and renewable energy. These reforms will help accelerate the nation's economic recovery and advance energy infrastructure while continuing necessary environmental reviews."

**American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Dave Bauer, President and CEO:** "The National Environmental Policy Act's antiquated, three-decade old review procedures have unnecessarily stymied critically needed infrastructure improvements. We heartily endorse President Trump's steadfast commitment to speed up the delivery of transportation projects, while keeping environmental safeguards in place. The full effects of building major projects requiring the NEPA reforms outlined by the Trump administration won't be realized with more temporary federal highway and transit program funding extensions. Maximizing the benefits of the President's NEPA reforms is another in a long line of reasons for Congress to complete action on a robust, multi-year surface transportation investment bill before the current law expires September 30."

**American Trucking Associations, Chris Spear, President and CEO:** "This is good news for truckers, the motoring public, our economy and the environment," said ATA President and CEO Chris Spear. "It currently takes an average seven years for a highway construction project to get through federal permitting, which is counterproductive in the extreme. This cumbersome review process presents an enormous obstacle to modernizing our outdated infrastructure, contributing to more traffic congestion and the harmful emissions that come with it."

**American Trucking Associations, Chairman and President of Triple G Express and Southeastern Motor Freight Randy Guillot:** "Infrastructure investment is a surefire way to reduce our nation's environmental impact, and this action by President Trump will help accelerate construction projects that reduce waste and result in a more efficient and resilient supply chain and transportation system for decades to come. Of course, streamlining project approvals won't matter if states don't have the funding needed to plan projects and break ground. COVID-19 has caused a 14% drop in Highway Trust Fund revenue, widening the investment gap

and hurtling us closer to the funding cliff,” said Guillot. “If Congress fails to act this year on its Constitutional responsibility, it risks derailing our economic recovery.”

**Americans for Limited Government, Rick Manning, President:** “Environmental reviews are meant to make certain that environmental concerns about an infrastructure project are heard and in many cases mitigated. But these environmental reviews were never supposed to be never-ending death sentences for infrastructure and other projects that our nation needs. The Trump administration’s announcement today of the final rule modernizing and accelerating environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act creates balance between valid environmental concerns and our nation’s growth. As America’s economy rebounds from the Chinese-originated virus downturn, streamlined regulatory approval processes will pave the way for investment in rebuilding our nation’s infrastructure and finally allow shovel-ready jobs to be created in a timely manner.”

**Americans for Tax Reform, Grover Norquist, President:** “Under the Obama administration, NEPA regulations were used as a political weapon to delay infrastructure projects with endless paperwork and litigation. It should never take 7 years for the government to issue a permit for building a bridge. Yet this is the average time it currently takes the Federal Highway Administration to complete an Environmental Impact Statement. Today’s announcement from CEQ is an important step towards fixing a broken permitting process. This final rule rightly recognizes that infrastructure projects should receive their environmental review in a timely manner and based solely on the merits of the project.”

**Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Patrick Ledger, CEO:** “Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (AEPSCO) supports the CEQ’s Final Rule updating its NEPA Regulations. This is a long overdue update of one of the most important environmental laws ever passed by Congress. The revisions will ensure that federal agency environmental reviews and authorization are conducted in a timely and efficient manner for entities such as AEPSCO that operate facilities that in certain circumstances require environmental review and approval under NEPA.”

**Arizona Municipal Power Users Association and Mohave Electric Cooperative, Tyler Carlson, President and CEO:** “This is an overdue modernization to rulemaking that has not been updated in more than 40 years. NEPA impacts every American’s life, every day and this update will help ensure that NEPA serves its intended purpose on protecting the environment without causing multiyear delays on infrastructure projects.”

**Arizona Rock Products Association, Steve Trussell, Executive Director:** “The National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA is of paramount importance to the construction and construction supply industry as well as our nation’s critical projects which include roads, bridges, highways, and water infrastructure. That said, environmental impact statements are colossal bureaucratic studies that can average hundreds, if not thousands, of pages with little notable impact on identifying or implementing practical protections for the environment. In fact, some of our nation’s greatest infrastructure projects were built in less time than we currently spent conducting, analyzing and administrating the NEPA process. Under the new regulations, environmental reviews for major development would be completed in two years. Further, actions without significant environmental impacts would either be categorically excluded or reviewed in

under one year. These process improvements can be achieved without degrading environmental protections and greatly benefit our country at a critical economic time and the administration is to be lauded for this great accomplishment.”

**Associated Builders and Contractors, Kristen Swearingen, Vice President of Legislative and Political Affairs:** “The modernization of these critical regulations will go a long way toward eliminating unnecessary delays that cause budget overruns in construction. Construction businesses recovering from the ongoing health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19 will surely benefit from these modifications, which will help reduce costs and speed up project approvals so that hardworking U.S. workers can get back on the job quickly and safely. The coordinated, predictable and transparent process to streamline permitting will also 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 General Contractors of America, Stephen E. Sandherr, CEO:** “This updated review process will make it easier to rebuild aging infrastructure, attract private investment, support efforts to reinvigorate our economy and continue to provide strict protections for the environment. Given the broad, bipartisan support for improving infrastructure, these common-sense reforms should be widely embraced and supported. Significantly, under the final rule, projects still undergo an environmental review with public input. The key difference is that those reviews will last months, instead of years and it will become slightly harder for special interests to delay the process with unmerited lawsuits. Notably, the substantive environmental laws and requirements that come into play on every construction project remain unchanged. At a time when both political parties understand the best way to support the economy is by investing in infrastructure, this new rule will help ensure that civil works funding and public-private partnerships help create needed jobs and deliver results, instead of being mired in red tape and squandered on endless legal squabbles.”

**Association of American Railroads, Ian Jefferies, President and CEO:** “These commonsense reforms will streamline the review process and eliminate many unnecessary obstacles that have long delayed progress on our nation’s infrastructure priorities. The freight rail industry appreciates the Administration’s commitment to modernizing the regulation to meet the dual goals of accelerating infrastructure projects and also preserving our environment for future generations.”

**Bipartisan Policy Center, Michele Nellenbach, Director of Strategic Initiatives:** “NEPA’s environmental review and permitting process gives affected stakeholders and underrepresented voices a meaningful opportunity to engage and share concerns about projects. However, the process can be unnecessarily lengthy and costly. BPC’s Executive Council on Infrastructure identified regulatory delays as one of the key obstacles to private investment in American infrastructure projects. The administration’s update to the NEPA rules addresses several process delays by empowering key decision-makers to resolve interagency and intragovernmental disputes, increasing data collection and transparency, making simultaneous agency reviews the norm, and providing for more predictable and coordinated schedules.”

**Building a Better America, Phil Cox, Chairman:** “On behalf of the more than 500,000 Americans who urged improvements to the National Environmental Policy Act, we commend President Trump and his Administration for their work to modernize regulations to encourage greater investment in America’s critical infrastructure. The Administration’s action will result in more jobs and investment and greater transparency and predictability for those seeking to build and improve broadband, airports, roads, transit, and many other public assets. The final rule will encourage greater investment in American infrastructure while ensuring projects are delivered on time and on budget. This final rule will balance environmental protections with ensuring that critical infrastructure projects are not caught in years’ worth of unnecessary red tape and duplicative requirements. This will not only provide certainty for American businesses and spur the creation of American jobs at a time when our economy most needs it, but it will also benefit the American people who rely on our nation’s infrastructure. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the modernized NEPA regulations will also allow critical broadband projects to move forward to provide better access to American workers and students who are relying on a strong broadband connection now more than ever. This final rule will be a critical part of our economic recovery and we applaud the Administration’s work to reform and modernize NEPA.”

**Center for Liquefied Natural Gas, Charlie Riedl, Executive Director:** “Today’s finalized rule provides certainty for project developers and international buyers looking for consistent and predictable regulatory time frames. A modernized NEPA process will help U.S. LNG compete in the global marketplace while ensuring rigorous safety and environmental standards at home. We are happy to see that the final rule incorporates the One Federal Decision policy which better enables multidomain regulatory projects like LNG facilities to navigate the permitting processes.”

**Citizens Against Government Waste, Thomas A. Schatz, President:** “The updated rules for the National Environmental Policy Act announced today by the Council on Environmental Quality are both welcome and long overdue. They will modernize complex and outdated 40-year old regulations that increased costs and significantly delayed construction, energy, and water projects across the country. NEPA has also been the most litigated environmental law. The new rules will help every business and taxpayer by reducing the time it takes to review a project from seven years to no more than two years, increasing public input and transparency, and making it easier to determine whether federal laws should apply to a project.”

**Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, Heather Reams, Executive Director:** “After more than 40 years of existence, NEPA has not aged gracefully. It’s astounding that in this modern, on-demand era, anyone would defend expensive, job-killing, bureaucratic red tape. President Trump’s NEPA reforms are good for consumers, good for our economic recovery, and good for America writ large. These reforms streamline an environmental review process that had become synonymous with illogical business practices, special interest favoritism, and government overreach. They also give business owners and communities a clear path to successfully embark on big, bold infrastructure projects – including clean energy development – to create quality job opportunities and make life better. The fact of the matter is, if we can cut six years of red tape from a clean energy project like a nuclear plant or modernize wind farm, that’s six years of fewer emissions in our atmosphere from conventional sources of power. CRES applauds the Trump

Administration for finding a way to bring new innovations and new infrastructure projects to life faster without sacrificing the intention of the original NEPA legislation.”

**ClearPath Action Fund:** “#NEPAModernization will reduce unnecessary regulatory hurdles that needlessly slow down #energy projects. The efficient permitting of projects is essential to the efficient use of scant taxpayer resources and rapidly scaling #CleanEnergy deployment.”

**Club for Growth:** “President Trump understands the longer a project takes to complete, the more expensive it will cost. By modernizing National Environmental Policy Act #NEPA, @realDonaldTrump is pushing aside bureaucratic #redtape, speeding up infrastructure projects, + strengthening the economy.”

**Club 20, Christian Reece, Executive Director:** “In Western Colorado, the National Environmental Policy Act impacts how we manage wildlife, where we can develop natural resources, and how we develop our transportation and water infrastructure. With an average of 4.5 years to complete a NEPA analysis, many of our economic drivers are literally sitting in limbo, wasting time and money, waiting for approval. It’s about time this poorly written, 40-year old set of regulations is updated to allow our communities to prosper by being able to develop our resources in an environmentally sound, socially responsible, timely, and economically viable manner. We applaud the administration for their efforts to modernize this well intentioned, but unreasonably burdensome regulation.”

**Competitive Enterprise Institute, Myron Ebell, Director for Energy and Environment:** “CEI welcomes the final NEPA rule as a major improvement over the existing regulations. Eliminating the necessity to consider cumulative impacts of proposed projects, limiting the effects that can be considered to those that have a reasonably close causal relationship to the project, and excluding projects from NEPA review that have only minimal federal involvement are especially important changes. These and other reforms, if implemented by career civil servants and enforced by federal judges, should remove some of the regulatory obstacles that delay major infrastructure and natural resource projects for years and often decades. The Trump administration’s new rule will not drain NEPA’s regulatory swamp completely (only Congress can do that), but it should significantly lower the water level.”

**Competitive Enterprise Institute, Ben Lieberman, Senior Fellow:** “There is a backlog of energy and transportation infrastructure projects in the long NEPA queue. These job-creating projects, if expeditiously approved, could help put more people back to work as the economy recovers from the coronavirus pandemic, and the completed projects would strengthen American energy dominance. This is why the Trump administration issued an executive order asking agencies to select proposed projects for expedited NEPA review. This final rule could help many of the rest get a more timely decision without needless climate-related complications.”

**ConservAmerica, Brett Fewell, General Counsel:** “Environmental reviews have become an incredibly cumbersome and confusing process for many project proponents,” said Fewell, who served as an adviser at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the George W. Bush administration. “Too often, the long delays caused by appeals and litigation under NEPA drive investors away and eventually cause projects to wither on the vine. Our environment is far

cleaner, and the federal government's actions are far more environmentally mindful than they were five decades ago when NEPA was first signed into law. Much of that progress is because of environmental laws like NEPA.”

**Conservatives for Property Rights, James Edwards, Founder and Executive Director:** “The Trump administration’s NEPA reforms are a welcome rebalancing of property rights-based considerations, including fairness, equity and due process. NEPA environmental reviews have grown excessively, detrimentally complicated, costly, long and slow. And they fail to serve the public interest in environmental stewardship. Streamlining NEPA reviews while preserving core environmental safeguards will speed badly needed projects, reduce costs and promote America’s industrial competitiveness. Today’s regulatory reform protects private property rights and respects property owners’ decisions on how to enjoy the fruits of their labor.”

**Energy Fairness, Paul Griffin, Executive Director:** “Reforming NEPA is a winning move not just for the energy industry and jobs, but for integrating renewables, ensuring the continued integrity of that engineering marvel – the Electric Grid – and for ensuring a continued supply of affordable and reliable energy.”

**Family Farm Alliance, Dan Keppen, Executive Director:** “Don’t be fooled by the headlines and intonations of activists who make their living in federal court rooms. The new NEPA regulation is just one of several proactive rulemaking efforts undertaken by the Trump Administration, in part intended to correct and rebalance the significant negative impacts to Western farmers and ranchers that have resulted from past federal implementation of environmental laws.”

**Federal Forest Resource Coalition, Bill Imbergamo, Executive Director:** “These reforms make long overdue changes to the burdensome NEPA process. These are common-sense changes favored by the professional staff who bear the brunt of producing these mammoth analyses. Streamlined processes, clarified roles, page and time limits are just good government. The Forest Service produces more EIS’s than any other land management agency, most often while simply trying to manage renewable resources and reduce the risk of wildfires. We look forward to seeing these new rules implemented, and to seeing the Forest Service complete their own, agency specific NEPA rules which will allow for further streamlining.”

**The Fertilizer Institute, Corey Rosenbusch, President and CEO:** “NEPA has not been updated in 40 years, and TFI has been supportive of these long overdue changes that improve efficiency of the permitting process and ensure continued environmental protection,” said TFI President & CEO Corey Rosenbusch. “Our industry is focused on providing crop nutrients in a way that ensures farmer profitability and minimizes environmental impact so that we can feed a growing world. To do that we also need to grow, and we need the stability and certainty of a regulatory framework that allows us to do so. Many of our members have been negatively impacted by outdated NEPA guidelines,” Rosenbusch confirmed. “One producer, whose story is not unique, has spent the last decade and \$20 million dollars in pursuit of a permit to grow jobs and instill economic prosperity in a community still reeling from economic stagnation, only to remain unsure of its ultimate fate. TFI believes in the original Congressional intent of NEPA, which was to help public officials make decision that are based on the understanding of

environmental consequences and to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment,” Rosenbusch concluded. “These revisions will ensure that federal regulations continue to protect the environment without causing unnecessary negative impacts to the business community and allowing what our members to do what they do best: feed the world.”

**FreedomWorks, Dan Savickas, Regulatory Policy Manager:** “In one of the most advanced, developed nations in the world, there is no excuse for government regulators to hinder infrastructure projects the way they have. Not only did these regulations harm investment and innovation in America, they tangibly made the lives of millions of Americans more onerous as a result. We're glad that the administration is moving to finalize this reform that is long overdue and are looking forward to the positive changes we'll see after its full implementation.”

**GAIN Coalition, Craig Stevens, Spokesman:** “The GAIN Coalition applauds the Trump Administration for taking steps to modernize and streamline our nation’s permitting and approval process for critical infrastructure development. While well-intended, NEPA has transformed into a burdensome web of bureaucratic, confusing, and overlapping hurdles that too often delay or halt infrastructure projects costing Americans’ jobs and weakening our economy. The Administration’s commonsense updates should simplify the review process for infrastructure projects, spur infrastructure investment, and provide an enhanced level of regulatory certainty while still maintaining the integrity of our nation’s environmental protections.”

**Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association, Dave Lock, CEO:** “Modernizing a 40-year-old process will enable critical electric and other infrastructure projects to come to fruition sooner rather than much later. NEPA is the most litigated environmental law in the country. The federal government currently averages more than 4.5 years to complete an environmental impact statement. As the saying goes, time is money. As not-for-profits, Arizona’s co-ops are always seeking ways to lower costs, which benefits their members. Nudging federal approval along will benefit our co-ops and their members.”

**Heritage Foundation, Diane Katz, Senior Research Fellow:** “Five decades of NEPA experience have revealed its numerous flaws, including arbitrary standards, politicized enforcement, and protracted litigation. While the optimum policy option is repeal of the NEPA entirely, the Trump Administration’s reform of NEPA regulations will help to revive the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Establishing reasonable timelines for permitting, and streamlining the process of environmental assessments will reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers that otherwise inhibit investment, job creation and economic growth. Among the most important reforms is clarification of the environmental ‘effects’ that agencies must consider in a NEPA review. This new framework should help to prevent the time-consuming and costly analysis of speculative environmental impacts such as global warming that rely entirely on a convoluted causal chain.”

**Independent Petroleum Association of America, Barry Russell, President and CEO:** “The Trump Administration has taken a bold step to modernize the NEPA process. The new rule updates 40-year-old regulations by reducing unnecessary paperwork, setting timelines for environmental reviews and reduces frivolous litigation efforts designed to simply stall or delay vital infrastructure projects. Prior to this new NEPA rule, building or updating energy



infrastructure on federal lands could be held up in review for years with no decision in sight. IPAA's members fully support environmental protections, smart regulations and community input on projects. However, many times the NEPA review process takes longer to complete than it takes to actually finish a project. The time has come to modernize the outdated NEPA regulations and bring the process into the 21st Century. Developing a regulatory program that provides timely decisions brings much needed certainty to businesses and their employees who are trying to plan for the long term and assure labor, equipment and materials can be available when needed. IPAA also applauds the Trump Administration for taking action to spur key efficiency efforts and improve agency coordination when administering NEPA. The Administration's proposal to condense the interagency review process and designate a lead agency for NEPA reviews is long overdue and enthusiastically welcomed. When the NEPA process results in environmentally sound, modernized infrastructure projects moving forward and being completed in a timely process, all Americans stand to benefit."

**International Association of Geophysical Contractors:** "IAGC commends the Administration on NEPA modernization, streamlining critical regulatory processes within agencies. Today's action is a significant step in taking NEPA back to Congress' original intent and will reduce costs to consumers and create jobs. #energystartshere"

**Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, Alex Oehler, President and CEO:** "As America works to recover from COVID-19 and create an economy of the future, infrastructure investment is needed now more than ever. The updated NEPA regulations will undoubtedly make the environmental review process more efficient and provide regulatory certainty, which will stimulate efforts to modernize our nation's infrastructure, create and support private sector jobs, and reduce costs for consumers. Most importantly, this modernization will improve environmental outcomes and restore the intent of NEPA by ensuring federal agencies focus their attention on significant environmental impacts that are relevant to their respective decision-making authorities. We thank the Council on Environmental Quality for their thorough review and for modernizing this important environmental framework."

**Junk Science, Steve Milloy, Founder:** "No environmental rules are being 'weakened.' The NEPA process is being streamlined to get decisions on a more timely basis. Environmental reviews are not rocket science and the process is always abused by anti-development greens."

**National Association of Counties, Matthew Chase, Executive Director/CEO:** "As environmental stewards with significant public safety and infrastructure responsibilities, counties welcome the administration's efforts to streamline the permitting process and foster conditions for responsible economic growth. We support the new requirements for federal agencies to work with state and local governments on environmental analyses and other common-sense improvements to the NEPA process. We look forward to continuing our efforts with our federal partners to build infrastructure for the future and achieve our shared environmental and economic goals."

**National Association of County Engineers, Kevan P. Stone, Executive Director:** "American investment and ingenuity are needed now more than ever. The reforms contained in today's final rule on NEPA will allow county governments to stretch precious infrastructure dollars further

while remaining good stewards of the environment. Allowing greater flexibility and reducing the federal bureaucracy is a winning formula to improving our national transportation infrastructure. As our nation looks to revive its economy, these reforms will be vital in getting more Americans back to work and providing safer roads and bridges in a more streamlined and efficient manner.”

**National Association of Home Builders, Chuck Fowke, Chairman:** “The final rule to reform the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the most recent example of the Trump administration’s ongoing efforts to reduce harmful regulations that hurt small businesses and impede economic growth. By updating the NEPA regulations to modernize the federal environmental review process, the new rule will streamline the federal permitting process and allow badly needed transportation and infrastructure projects to move forward. In turn, this will build strong communities and support a thriving housing market.”

**National Association of Manufacturers, Jay Timmons, President and CEO:** “These bold steps from the Council on Environmental Quality will help boost infrastructure projects—from water and energy delivery to transportation. This will set the stage for more jobs and investment in America.”

**National Association of Manufacturers, Rachel Jones, Vice President of Energy and Resources:** “Manufacturers are committed to smart, strong environmental protections, improving the lives of all Americans and building a more inclusive future together. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic it is more important than ever to strengthen U.S. manufacturing capabilities and operations. Onshoring manufacturing requires first establishing basic infrastructure—from water and energy delivery to transportation—before ground can ever be broken on a major facility. Obtaining permits for these items can take years, especially when environmental reviews are piecemeal, but CEQ’s bold steps today utilize existing authority to strengthen reviews, reduce the time necessary to obtain permits and set the stage to incentivize job creation and investment in America.”

**National Association of Realtors, Vince Malta, President:** “While uncertainty will continue to define the coming months, any action policymakers can take to inject some stability and confidence into our markets is welcomed with open arms by America’s 1.4 million Realtors®,” said Malta, broker at Malta & Co., Inc., in San Francisco, CA. “Since NEPA was last updated four decades ago, the real estate industry has seen countless infrastructure modernization projects paralyzed by arbitrary delays and unreasonable cost increases, barriers which today are felt more heavily because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we push to safely and sensibly reopen our nation, NAR applauds the White House’s continued efforts to balance much-needed environmental protections with economic development in America.”

**National Association of State Department of Agriculture, President, and North Dakota Agriculture, Commissioner, Doug Goehring:** “NASDA members and their federal partners have consistently relied on a common-sense regulatory framework to serve the food, agriculture, and forestry community,” said Goehring. “Modernizing NEPA is critical for the continued effectiveness of one of our nation’s bedrock environmental laws. NASDA appreciates the emphasis on investing in states as co-regulatory partners. Whether on NEPA, Waters of the

United States, or Hours of Service rules for livestock haulers, supporting regulatory efficiency ultimately supports American agriculture.”

**National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Marty Smith, President:** “The modernized NEPA rule brings common sense back to an important rule that was established to protect our land and water resources. President Trump and his team at the Council on Environmental Quality embraced a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure this country has the strongest possible environmental policy for years to come. They deserve an abundance of thanks. American ranchers that care for hundreds of millions of acres of private and public lands across the United States know the importance of implementing timely improvements based on the best knowledge at hand. These changes ensure NEPA does not delay good management practices.”

**National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Executive Director of Natural Resources and Public Lands Council, Executive Director, Kaitlynn Glover:** “Over the last several decades, outdated NEPA processes have led to massive backlogs of federal grazing permits, delayed management actions critical to preventing dangerous wildfire conditions, and other missed opportunities to improve land health. NEPA has been exploited by extremist groups in an effort to remove livestock from the landscape. These changes bring common sense and good science back to the NEPA process and allow federal agencies to concentrate on the real impacts of a proposal in a timely manner. I speak on behalf of all ranchers in thanking the Administration for establishing a stronger future for wildlife, natural resources, and people across the country.”

**National Mining Association, Rich Nolan, President and CEO:** “These reforms will begin to align NEPA with its intended purpose: to balance societal needs with best in class world-leading environmental protections. The mining industry – the very front end of our material supply chains – has long been held back by a broken permitting process that can largely be linked back to NEPA’s web of well-documented historical problems. These overdue reforms improve a process that has become a barrier to rebuilding and modernizing essential infrastructure in the U.S.”

**National Ocean Industries Association, Erik G. Milito, President:** “An unprecedented economic crisis needs a historic comeback. The Trump Administration has carefully modernized NEPA so that critical projects can escape endless bureaucratic red tape and lawsuits and get to work with their shovel-ready jobs, while still ensuring a thorough environmental analysis. A smarter NEPA foundation means that many energy and infrastructure projects have the certainty and clarity to finally move forward under the same high level of safety and environmental stewardship Americans demand. A brighter future awaits countless projects, including planned offshore wind farms up and down the Atlantic Coast with the billions of dollars of investment and tens of thousands of American jobs they will bring. These changes to NEPA are critically important policy to both investment and environmental stewardship. Our members are ready to work.”

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Jim Matheson, CEO:** “Regulatory hurdles under NEPA have triggered reliability challenges and forced electric co-ops and their communities to endure costly project delays,” said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. “We support the spirit of NEPA, and these sensible modernizations are long overdue. Today’s announcement

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,” Matheson said.

**National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, Michele Stanley, Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs:** “The National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association applauds the Administration for releasing the final rule that will bring much needed modernization and clarity to the National Environmental Policy Act process--while still maintaining strong environmental protections. Once enacted, this rule will remove unnecessary red tape and allow taxpayer dollars to be used to develop much needed infrastructure that sustains high-paying jobs, improves our communities and advance environmental stewardship. It has been more than 40 years since a comprehensive update of the NEPA regulations has been conducted. During this time the process has created duplicative agency actions resulting in year-long delays in the permitting of infrastructure projects. We have witnessed hundreds of public works projects, which are important to the livelihoods of all Americans, be halted and delayed by unnecessary lawsuits and bureaucratic setbacks that do nothing to advance the underlying goals of NEPA. These setbacks caused by the current process is harming our economic potential needed to help our nation recover. Today’s action is an important step in unleashing our potential by allowing investments in renewable energy, clean drinking water, affordable housing, efficient transit and projects that reduced congestion and delays to finally move ahead.”

**National Taxpayers Union:** “President Trump's NEPA reforms are a major step forward for infrastructure projects and for taxpayers. Being able to deliver more projects on time will be a boon to Americans and taxpayers everywhere. We commend the administration for enacting a pro-taxpayer rule and look forward to engaging further on additional infrastructure reforms.”

**Natural Gas Supply Association, Dena Wiggins, President and CEO:** “We applaud the Administration’s final rule to modernize and clarify NEPA. NGSA has supported the Council on Environmental Quality’s efforts to update NEPA regulations, which will facilitate effective and timely reviews of infrastructure projects needed to serve consumers, all while ensuring continued thorough and comprehensive environmental reviews. This final rule provides a clear roadmap for agencies’ environmental reviews, fosters fewer delays and promotes better decision-making for vital energy infrastructure.”

**New Mexico Federal Lands Council, Don L. Lee, President:** “The National Environmental Policy Act is the most litigated environmental law in the country. Rather than conserving an environmental for the benefit of all, the 40-year-old NEPA has cost the nation, the environment and American families millions of dollars due to delayed or eliminated infrastructure projects large and small. This new rule balances the needs of the land, water and its’ creatures with those of the people who care for them for the benefit of all involved. We are particularly pleased with the time limit and page limits that are contained in the new rule. There is no way any citizen can review and comment on 600 plus page documents that can take nearly a decade to complete. We look forward to working with the new NEPA.”

**North America’s Building Trade Unions:** “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.”

**Off-Road Business Association, Scott Jones, Authorized Representative:** “We are thrilled that NEPA is becoming more effective and efficient with the new regulations. Too often lengthy NEPA analysis has delayed small projects such as maintenance, which results in unnecessary impacts to resources and low-quality recreational experiences for the public. The new regulations are a major step in avoiding this situation.”

**Portland Cement Association, Sean O’Neill, Senior Vice President:** “The cement industry applauds the Trump Administration for its commitment to deregulation with the finalization of NEPA modernization and removing the regulatory roadblocks preventing construction of critical and resilient infrastructure, better roads and highways, and access to affordable clean energy,” said Sean O’Neill, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs at the Portland Cement Association. “NEPA modernization will ensure that federal permitting requirements will advance our nation’s environmental, energy, and economic goals and no longer impose unnecessarily long roadblocks.”

**Protect Americans Now, John Richardson, President:** “For the past 40 years, the National Environmental Policy Act has been one of the biggest detriments to environmental conservation around. There were no clear definitions for federal agents to follow and apply creating litigious situations with no determination of what the appropriate level of review necessary for any project. We are pleased to see the expansion of public involvement and the improvement in coordination with State, Tribes and Localities. In the past the people most impacted by NEPA and its’ resulting decisions had the latest and the least input in the process.”

**Public Lands Council, Bob Skinner, President:** “The process updates to NEPA are celebrated across the West. Today’s rule recognizes the severe limitations of a policy that had not been updated in more than 40 years. Over the last four decades, ranchers learned and adapted to new needs of wildlife and other rangeland users, but outdated NEPA policy prevented us from responding to many critical situations. The changes finalized today bring NEPA up to date, focus the attention on the real issues at hand, and ensure the government is avoiding speculative and duplicative environmental reviews. Thank you to the Trump Administration for engaging and listening to stakeholders on the ground.”

**R Street Institute, Devin Hartman, Director of Energy and Environmental Policy:** “NEPA reform presents a powerful narrative that reducing regulatory burdens can benefit the economy and the environment,” said Hartman. “For example, every fuel category of the clean energy industry wants NEPA reform.”

**Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, Karen Kerrigan, President & CEO:** “Reducing NEPA delays, red tape, and costs will allow our economy to more quickly reap the benefits of modern infrastructure, which will save time and money for individuals and small businesses alike. The environment will also benefit through less congestion, faster routes and

projects that promote energy efficiency and alternatives. Moreover, America's economy needs the investment and jobs that infrastructure projects generate. Getting these projects off-the-ground through a balanced process and faster timeline will translate into jobs and growth opportunities for small businesses. This is the type of opportunity individuals and entrepreneurs will need to recover from the COVID-19 crash," said Kerrigan. "Americans, especially small business owners, understand the big costs associated with time and money spent in traffic, and the toll this also takes on their quality of life. The changes to NEPA is welcome news, and we thank President Trump for his leadership in this critical area."

**Texas Public Policy Foundation, Robert Henneke, General Counsel:** "We welcome the announcement of the new NEPA regulations, the most significant reforms to the federal environmental review process in over 40 years. These reforms include the limitation of NEPA reviews to 2 years, down from the current average of 4.5 years, and the streamlining of the review process that currently encompasses multiple federal agencies. By reducing the time and cost of complying with NEPA, these reforms will lead to more jobs and lower costs for American consumers while still maintaining America's world-leading environmental protections."

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Tom Donohue, President and CEO:** "It should not take longer for a project to get permitted than it does for it to be constructed, but unfortunately that is often the case in the United States today. After two decades of discussion about the need for reform, spanning multiple Administrations, we're thankful that the Trump Administration has made this issue a priority and taken thoughtful action. In this time of economic hardship, America must be able to put people to work to rebuild our aging transportation infrastructure like highways, bridges and airports. If we are serious about wanting to improve our climate, we must be able to build the clean energy infrastructure needed like solar panels, wind farms and transmission lines. And if we wish to provide underserved communities with environmentally sustainable infrastructure that unleashes economic opportunities, we must be able to expand access to transit lines. These NEPA updates will make the federal permitting process more predictable and transparent. It will establish timelines for a decision and make requirements more straightforward. Ultimately, this new rule is not about the outcome of permit applications, but the process and time it takes to get to a decision. Make no mistake: NEPA is vital to protecting our environment. The Chamber wholeheartedly supports a thorough environmental review process for projects. This NEPA update does not change existing environmental laws, and it maintains public input opportunities that are so important. Instead, these updates return NEPA back to its original intent-- a timely and focused review of environmental impacts-- rather than a tool to delay projects for years and even decades, which is what it had become. NEPA updates are a great start, but they are not the only answer. We continue our call for Congress to work together in a bipartisan way on an infrastructure package that includes additional permitting improvements and viable funding solutions. The Chamber will continue to lead this fight."

**U.S. Energy Association, Barry Worthington, Executive Director:** "Under the old NEPA rule, the energy industry was constrained by overlapping and redundant regulations and an unnecessarily lengthy environmental assessment for each infrastructure project. Regardless of politics, this hurt all American energy consumers, and our allies who rely on our resources."

President Trump is not rolling back regulations or removing environmental protections. Duplicative regulations make no sense. Why should several agencies or several states assess the exact same impact of a project? The old NEPA rule was like having to get a driver's license from 50 different states. It was in need of an update. Waiting seven years for a proposed new bridge to start construction is often the reason bridges collapse, like the one in St. Paul, which collapsed in 2007. Critical infrastructure cannot wait, and it supersedes party lines. Democrats and the Trump administration agree we need infrastructure. It is one of the great equalizers of our society. Critical infrastructure to transport much-needed energy supplies to population centers can't wait 4-7 years to start construction. All Americans need to feel secure that the roads and bridges they drive over are safe and modern. They need to rely on reliable electricity and energy supplies to live. That requires pipelines. The NEPA rule will also open the gateway for new renewable energy projects in a timely fashion. This is a bipartisan win. Environmental management and energy development go hand in hand. The Trump administration environmental policies have allowed our industry to thrive instead of being constrained. Our environment is protected, and our citizens are protected. Infrastructure expansion boosts our economy, while pipeline infrastructure helps improve our environment. After all, it's natural gas that has helped drive down carbon emissions notwithstanding the drop in global emissions we've seen during this global pandemic. Infrastructure expansion puts the U.S. in a position of strength in the world. We are global suppliers of energy and leaders in energy access expansion. Trump administration policies to rollback redundant regulations encourage production and infuse certainty in the energy market. This creates jobs, grows our economy and propagates prosperity across the nation in all communities.”

**Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation & Drainage District, Elston Grubaugh, General Manager:** “As the General Manager of a distribution utility, I understand the hurdles NEPA creates for many of our infrastructure projects that have a Federal nexus. The final rule is an important step in the right direction for modernizing a forty-year-old process to reflect the technology and renewable energy needs of today.”

**Western Energy Alliance, Kathleen Sgamma, President:** “For far too long, NEPA has been a tool used not for mitigating actual environmental impacts, but for stopping projects that create jobs and economic benefits for society. The recent ruling on the Dakota Access Pipeline is but another example of how endless rounds of NEPA threaten environmentally responsible energy infrastructure. As a functioning society, we must get a handle on NEPA to reach a reasonable balance between building infrastructure and protecting the environment. This administration has the courage to tackle this difficult issue, and we applaud the final rule.”