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Toby Mack, President & CEO

July 30, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance (EEIA), I write to express our strong support for the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. EEIA represents the energy infrastructure supply chain, comprised of companies and trade organizations that supply labor, equipment, construction services and materials to energy infrastructure projects in the United States, including production, transmission and downstream consumption and export facilities.

Nearly impenetrable barriers to permitting energy infrastructure projects stemming from unnecessarily lengthy and redundant environmental reviews, coupled with the near-certainty of endless judicial reviews and challenges, have devastated a once-thriving infrastructure development industry. This has killed countless good jobs and stranded tens of billions of dollars of investment in equipment, manufacturing capacity and material used in energy infrastructure construction.

The permitting status quo also threatens public health, safety and economic development by preventing additions to electricity generation and transmission capacity in the face of rapidly growing demand from AI, new manufacturing, and vehicle and building electrification. Desperately needed new renewable and natural gas generating capacity to meet growing demand cannot be added without significant additions to both natural gas transport and electricity transmission.

The number of natural gas transmission projects currently pending in the FERC permitting queue underscores the continuing virtual depression in the natural gas pipeline development space. Last November there were eight projects longer than 10 miles with a cumulative total of 476 miles of new pipeline. Today, those numbers are three 10-mile+ projects and a cumulative total of 185 miles nationally.

A primary reason for the lack of new projects in the planning hopper is that despite clearly-demonstrated market need, the very high cost of designing and engineering major transmission projects – often hundreds of millions of dollars – simply cannot be risked in an environment of exceptionally high permitting uncertainty. The Energy Permitting Reform Act will lower these barriers significantly, giving a green light to project developers to begin the process of adding urgently needed capacity.

An adequately-supplied energy grid, and the jobs, family and business prosperity, public safety and economic development that rely on it, are absolutely dependent on a manageable project permitting process – something that is completely absent today.

We urge you to move the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 forward expeditiously and look forward to marshalling the support of members of the vast energy infrastructure development sector to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toby Mack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Toby Mack
President & CEO