

THE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY **ON THE ISSUES**



Gridlock, Groundbreaking, to Out of the Gate: Reform our Permitting Processes

Aggregates, asphalt and ready-mixed concrete are the foundation of every infrastructure project. However, outdated and often duplicative environmental permitting requirements continue to create uncertainty about when a permit is required, leading to a permitting process that is slow, unpredictable and outdated, while needlessly raising costs and delaying critical projects.

Delays under the Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) often result from duplicative reviews, shifting standards, litigation risk and overlapping agency responsibilities – modernizing these core permitting authorities with sensible, bipartisan policies can achieve efficient project delivery without compromising environmental stewardship. These delays affect construction materials suppliers, public agencies, contractors and communities trying to build roads, bridges, water systems and other critical projects on time and on budget. Small businesses are hit especially hard because they often lack the resources to navigate years of permitting uncertainty.

NSSGA, NAPA and NRMCA urge Congress to advance broad, bipartisan reforms that provide certainty, reduce duplication, and preserve environmental protections.

We encourage bipartisan negotiations to continue in the Senate between members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Environment and Public Works Committees, and are supportive of the following bills:

■ **Pass the SPEED Act** to better balance environmental protection with economic development. Improve NEPA by establishing firm timelines for reviews, enforcing page limits on environmental documents, and requiring a single lead agency to coordinate the process. These changes would reduce duplication across federal agencies and create much-needed predictability for project sponsors. NEPA should remain a tool for informed decision-making, not an open-ended obstacle to progress.

Small businesses are hit especially hard because they often lack the resources to navigate years of permitting uncertainty.

■ **Pass the PERMIT Act and CLEAR Waters Act**, common-sense proposals that would codify many of the permitting principles already embraced by stakeholders and federal agencies. It would set enforceable deadlines, improve transparency, and ensure agency accountability. Congress has an opportunity to provide long-term certainty by making these reforms permanent and consistent across administrations.

■ **Update the ESA** to promote programmatic consultations and stronger interagency coordination. This would allow federal agencies to review similar projects more efficiently and avoid unnecessarily repeating the same consultations. Streamlining ESA implementation ensures that species protections remain strong, while reducing red tape and permitting delays.

Congress has an opportunity to fix what is broken and unlock the full potential of the construction materials industry. The time to modernize permitting is now, as America cannot afford to wait.

For more information, please contact staff at:

NSSGA
NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

nssga.org

NAPA
NATIONAL ASPHALT
PAVEMENT ASSOCIATION

asphaltpavement.org

NRMCA
NATIONAL READY MIXED
CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

nrmca.org

