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House Concurrent Resolution on Permitting Reform

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard

Senate Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton



LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution urges Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- recognizes the importance of domestic energy production for national security and economic competitiveness;
- highlights issues with current federal permitting processes that delay energy infrastructure development;
- details specific problems with current permitting timelines and processes;
- emphasizes the need for streamlined permitting while maintaining environmental protection; and
- urges Congress to enact specific reforms to federal permitting and environmental review processes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence;

WHEREAS, environmental stewardship that protects air, water, public health, biodiversity, species protection, and public lands remains an important goal;

28 WHEREAS, federal permitting and environmental review processes under the National
29 Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation
30 Act, Clean Water Act, and dozens of other federal requirements have become unnecessarily
31 complex and cumbersome;

32 WHEREAS, energy is produced in the United States at much higher environmental
33 standards than in countries from which energy is imported, making prevention of domestic
34 production counterproductive to environmental stewardship;

35 WHEREAS, permitting inefficiencies delay construction of essential energy infrastructure
36 components needed to support economic competitiveness, enhance reliability, prevent
37 blackouts, and lower costs;

38 WHEREAS, electricity demand in the United States is projected to increase dramatically,
39 requiring substantial increases in domestic energy production and more than doubling of
40 transmission capacity;

41 WHEREAS, over 2,000 gigawatts of energy production and storage are delayed in
42 interconnection queues, and average interconnection times have nearly doubled from
43 approximately two years to nearly four years;

44 WHEREAS, environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy
45 Act now take an average of four-and-a-half years to process;

46 WHEREAS, the United States relies heavily on foreign nations, particularly China, for
47 critical minerals, with demand projected to increase by more than 40 times by 2040;

48 WHEREAS, other developed nations with similar environmental goals, such as Canada and
49 Australia, permit new mines within two to three years compared to nearly 10 years in the
50 United States;

51 WHEREAS, both linear infrastructure and energy generation infrastructure face
52 extraordinary delays due to overlitigation, inappropriate blocking by unrepresentative groups,
53 and excessive use of the court system;

54 WHEREAS, project delays dramatically increase costs, reduce viability, and burden
55 consumers, businesses, and taxpayers while making our energy system less reliable;

56 WHEREAS, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack flexibility to allow efforts
57 that reflect the spirit and intent of environmental laws rather than mere procedural compliance;

58 WHEREAS, inefficient permitting processes increase dependence on energy produced by
59 foreign dictators and authoritarian regimes;

60 WHEREAS, permitting delays limit infrastructure modernization that would create a more
61 efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impact;

62 WHEREAS, failure to reform federal permitting laws results in reduced jobs, security, and
63 economic opportunities; and

64 WHEREAS, failure to reform these laws will result in greater limitations on energy
65 infrastructure, more lost American jobs, higher costs for consumers and businesses, and
66 increased vulnerability to unreliability and blackouts, causing severe harm to the American
67 people:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
69 Governor concurring therein, urges Congress to enact legislation reforming federal permitting
70 and environmental review processes to promote economic and environmental stewardship by
71 expediting energy infrastructure deployment.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these reforms should enable faster, lower-cost
73 construction of energy infrastructure of all kinds, without prejudice, by:

- 74 (1) limiting excessive use of judicial processes that inappropriately delay projects;
- 75 (2) preventing inappropriate usage of environmental and other federal laws to hamstring
76 linear energy infrastructure construction;
- 77 (3) reforming processes for planning, permitting, and funding electricity transmission
78 infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that lowers costs; and
- 79 (4) enabling domestic development of the full array of modern energy technologies,
80 including nuclear, emissions management, hydrogen, critical mineral mining and processing,
81 and all other needs for a modern energy system.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these reforms should ensure accountability for federal
83 agencies conducting permitting and environmental review processes through better data
84 collection, aggressive timelines, and permitting shot clocks.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these legislative reforms must be accompanied by a
86 redoubling of efforts to streamline federal regulations to support efficient building of new
87 energy infrastructure.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must act with urgency in the coming months
89 to prevent further harm to consumers, workers, and businesses, while protecting United States
90 competitiveness and reducing vulnerability to both foreign adversaries and domestic outages.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the
92 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
93 States House of Representatives, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.