

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

We represent a cross-section of businesses, industries, organizations and consumers that care deeply about our natural resources, water policy and management, energy development and our critical infrastructure.

As you begin the important work of the Committee in the 117th Congress, we write you today to show our commitment to finding common ground and helping address many of the important challenges we must overcome to get our country moving as it continues to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19. We stand ready to work with you to develop the vital infrastructure we need, help streamline vital priorities and ensure water resources are effectively managed while maintaining protections for the environment.

Despite the hopeful and unifying tone set at the Inauguration, we are concerned about ongoing regulatory delays and excessive red tape that are hindering recovery efforts needed to rebuild crumbling infrastructure. Ultimately, this will stall America's footing in a globally competitive marketplace. Such uncertainty could further erode our ability to build new clean energy and transportation projects and grow America's workforce by rolling back commonsense permitting reform efforts.

The specter of revisiting the sweeping regulatory scope of the Waters of the U.S. Rule has raised concerns with farm and ranch families, water resource managers and communities across the country. We want to ensure that our water supplies and systems are safely maintained without altering the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' essential missions of flood control, navigation, and collaborative water management.

Energy pipelines have also been canceled, costing thousands of jobs and a negative economic ripple effect throughout the U.S. economy. Meanwhile other existing projects already in the ground and operating face the risk of additional shutdowns that could cause further chaos for fuel and electricity markets nationally, and price uncertainty for our manufacturers. As we just witnessed with the impact of severe weather on the Texas energy market, the country should not limit the energy options being delivered to homes and businesses.

As the Committee continues its important oversight work on these priority areas, we ask that you keep these concerns and impacts in mind. We can build back together and it is our hope that we can accomplish the priorities of the Administration and Congress in a balanced and thoughtful fashion.

Sincerely,

Association of Oil Pipe Lines
Consumer Energy Alliance
Colorado Farm Bureau
Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Policy Group
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Oil and Gas Association
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Natural Gas Supply Association
New Mexico Cattle Growers Association
New Mexico Chamber of Commerce
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
New Mexico Wool Growers Association
NC Chamber
Ohio Chamber of Commerce