CONSUMERENERGYALLIANCE

Build Faster. Lower Cost. Protect Consumers.

The Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) is the trusted voice advocating for affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy solutions that benefits all Americans. Representing families, farmers, small businesses, distributors, producers, and manufacturers, CEA champions sensible, balanced energy policies that support economic growth, reliability, and environmental stewardship while ensuring consumers have a meaningful voice in the nation's energy dialogue.

Energy Demand & Permitting Challenges

Energy demand is growing across America, driven by expanding communities, manufacturing, data centers, and other businesses. Meeting that demand requires new power plants, pipelines, transmission lines, and other critical energy infrastructure.



Developing these projects can take a decade or more due to lengthy permitting processes, regulatory reviews, and litigation. Unnecessary delays increase construction costs, discourage investment, and postpone critical infrastructure needed to keep energy affordable and reliable for American families and businesses.

Bipartisan American Affordability & Jobs Act

The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA) would reduce unnecessary red tape, streamline permitting, and provide greater regulatory certainty so critical energy infrastructure can be built more efficiently while maintaining important environmental protections.

CEA supports BAAJA, as revised by the Senate substitute amendment, and urges Congress to pass the bill. This critical bipartisan permitting reform will help get energy projects built faster and more affordably, reduce costs for families and businesses, and strengthen America's energy security, while delivering the affordable, reliable energy American consumers need.

Important provisions that will benefit energy consumers:

NEPA Reform: Firm Deadlines, Coordinated Reviews

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects. Currently, overlapping reviews, agency coordination challenges, and permitting delays can slow projects for years. BAAJA strengthens deadlines, establishes clear lead-agency responsibilities, and coordinates federal reviews and permitting decisions under more predictable schedules.

Judicial Review: Fix the Flaw, Don't Kill the Project

Legal challenges can delay energy infrastructure projects long after federal approvals have been issued. BAAJA generally establishes a 150-day deadline for certain NEPA-related challenges, limits who may bring claims, and restricts when courts may invalidate approvals or halt construction. The bill also creates clear pathways for agencies to correct deficiencies without automatically stopping otherwise lawful projects.

Project Certainty: A Permit Means What It Says

Once a project receives the necessary federal approvals, agencies generally could not revoke, suspend, or substantially alter those authorizations except under specified circumstances, including violations of law, fraud, court orders, and certain safety or national security concerns. The legislation also establishes remedies for bad-faith federal actions and unreasonable delays.

Endangered Species Act: Protections on a Predictable Timeline

BAAJA shortens the standard formal consultation period under the Endangered Species Act from 90 to 60 days and generally aligns consultation with completion of the federal environmental review, subject to specified exceptions.

Clean Water Act: Focused Reviews, Longer Permits

BAAJA clarifies the scope of certain water-quality certification reviews, establishes more predictable procedures, and extends the maximum duration of certain federal water permits from five to ten years. It also provides additional permitting certainty for pipelines, transmission lines, and other essential infrastructure.

What This Means for Consumers

Faster permitting means less time spent in regulatory limbo, reducing unnecessary costs, and more timely investments in the energy infrastructure Americans depend on. Together, these reforms can help reduce project delays, strengthen grid reliability, support domestic energy production, and limit avoidable costs that ultimately affect families and businesses. Importantly, permitting efficiency and environmental stewardship can advance together.

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