

November 12, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The United States is facing a moment of rapid technological change, one with great implications for the economic well-being of American families, our country's global leadership, and our national security over the next century. While we cannot fully know what innovations the United States technology sector will produce, we can be certain that an abundant supply of energy will be key to their discovery during this critical juncture.

As leaders representing a diverse set of stakeholders across the technology sector, we urge you to prioritize the passage of the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (S. 4753), permitting reform legislation that will strengthen American energy security by accelerating the development of critical energy infrastructure.

Rising Demand and Static Supply

Already the United States is facing an energy crunch and a bottleneck in the development of new energy infrastructure.

Forecasts over the next decade show that the United States' total energy demand is expected to grow by 15 to 20 percent,¹ while electricity demand in some states is expected to grow by as much as seventeenfold.² The rising demand comes as the United States sees a boom in clean tech production, new data centers that enable AI technology, increasing electricity demand due to a changing climate, and as lawmakers work to bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States.

¹ [Clean Energy Resources to Meet Data Center Electricity Demand](#), Department of Energy

² [Amid Explosive Demand, America is Running Out of Power](#), Washington Post.

The success of each of these projects hinges on the availability of a constrained power supply reliant on an aging electrical grid. Electricity is critical to keeping our factories operational, our electric cars powered, our air conditioning running, and America's tech sector innovating.

But federal and state permitting regulations have blocked or delayed the construction of new wind, solar,³ nuclear,⁴ and geothermal energy projects⁵ across the country. And where these projects have been able to move forward, they often face challenges distributing electricity through a grid that is half a century old.⁶

The bottom line is that to meet new demand for electricity and to achieve a transition to green energy that reduces our carbon consumption, the United States must build new energy infrastructure at a pace that current permitting laws does not allow.

Curbing America's Tech Leadership

For decades, America's leadership in global innovation has powered domestic economic growth, supported the success of US small businesses, strengthened our country's national security, and provided Americans with good-paying jobs.

With the advent of AI, that leadership now depends on access to a cheap and abundant supply of energy. Increasing digitalization and AI have rapidly increased demand for data centers in the United States, which require a growing amount of power. Currently, US data centers rely on roughly 3 percent of total US power demand, but that share is expected to grow to 8 percent of power demand by 2030.⁷

Already in some parts of the United States, new data centers are facing a seven-year delay in coming online due to energy supply and transmission limitations.⁸ And more data center capacity is under construction. This year saw a 70 percent jump in the number of data centers under construction in North America.⁹

Without access to the data storage and processing power provided by this infrastructure, the United States cannot maintain its global lead in tech or fully realize the benefits of AI-supported innovation. Over the coming decade, the United States' continued supremacy in the global tech sector depends on access to energy.

³ [US urged to carve out wind, solar build zones to curb delays](#), Reuters.

⁴ [Reforming Nuclear Reactor Permitting and Environmental Reviews](#), Center on Global Energy Policy.

⁵ [Rare Toad, Clean Energy Face Off in Clash of US Green Priorities](#), Bloomberg.

⁶ [Why you should care about—and fear—America's aging energy grid](#), Fortune.

⁷ [AIs Already Wreaking Havoc on Global Power Systems](#), Bloomberg.

⁸ [Data Centers Face Seven-Year Wait for Dominion Power Hookups](#), Bloomberg.

⁹ [North America sees 70% jump in data center supply in construction, CBRE report says](#), Reuters.

A Bipartisan Solution

In order to increase access to energy for consumers and industries across the economy, Congress must take up permitting reform that allows America to build critical energy infrastructure. Fortunately, there is bipartisan support for passing such legislation in this year's divided Congress.

The Energy Permitting Reform Act would tackle a number of issues at the core of America's bottlenecked development of critical energy infrastructure by: expediting the development of renewable generation projects and transmission lines, expediting court review of critical energy and mineral projects, and reshaping the development of interregional transmission line planning.

Recent research suggests that the Energy Permitting Reform Act would significantly decrease emissions alongside an increase in domestic energy production, a win for both the environment and the economy.

With only two months left before the end of this Congress, we urge you to bring the bipartisan Energy Permitting Reform Act up for a vote and allow lawmakers across the political spectrum to support this legislation.

America's leadership in global innovation depends on the passage of permitting reforms that allow the US to build critical energy infrastructure. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Americans for Responsible Innovation (ARI)
Chamber of Progress
ClearPath Action
Inclusive Abundance Action
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Institute for Progress
NetChoice
TechNet