



July 26, 2024

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chairman Senate Energy and  
Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member Senate Energy and  
Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the [Clean Energy Buyers Association](#) (CEBA), whose more than 400 members represent over \$15 trillion in market capitalization and include one fifth of the Fortune 500, I am writing to thank you for introducing S. 4753, the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. This bipartisan legislation will strengthen American energy security by modernizing the federal siting and permitting process that upgrades the nation's power grid system through new generation and improved electricity transmission capacity in the United States.

Collectively, CEBA's members are driving billions in new investments across the country. Our members' ability to continue to grow and innovate is directly tied to their ability to access affordable, reliable, and clean energy to power their operations.

The U.S. electric grid is vital to our economy, our healthcare system, our national defense, and our homes and schools. The grid is one of the greatest engineering feats of the 20th century, but it is in urgent need of 21st-century modernization. Right now, outdated federal permitting policies and aging grid infrastructure are standing in the way of new investments in the U.S. economy.

The pace of demand growth for electricity across the nation is expected to nearly [double](#) in the next five years. This real and sizable growth is coming from a variety of [sectors](#), including reshoring of manufacturing, oil and gas production, electrification, and huge growth in the needs of a data-driven economy. We want to clear the path for more investment and innovation to happen here in the United States, and a modern electric grid is crucial to doing so.

As large electricity customers, we already experience barriers to reliable power across the nation. Currently, nearly 2.6 terawatts of generation and storage of all types remain stuck in interconnection queues, in part due to transmission congestion that prevents these projects from coming online. At the same time, extreme weather events increasingly threaten the power grid's reliability and stability, which comes at a huge cost to all electricity customers.

Modernizing and expanding the U.S. power system will lower energy customer costs, improve reliability, and help meet the growing demand for electricity across the country. This will attract investment and manufacturing that advances our shared goals of creating jobs

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for American workers, protecting national security through grid resilience, fostering innovation, and growing the economy.

We applaud you for holding a full Committee markup of S.4753, the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. We strongly support the bill's provisions to accelerate legal claims; streamline the siting and permitting of geothermal and other clean energy resources on public lands and in offshore waters; and enact strong, bipartisan transmission planning and permitting reforms. We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bipartisan legislation.

Permitting reform legislation passed by this Congress last year, the recent rules from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and actions from the U.S. Department of Energy are important steps, but only Congress can make the deeper, legislative reforms that are ultimately needed. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation. The backbone of the modern economy cannot wait.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Powell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rich" and last name "Powell" clearly distinguishable.

Rich Powell  
CEO, Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA)

CC: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Members