

July 26, 2023

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the more than 200 CEO members of Business Roundtable, who lead U.S.-based companies that support one in four American jobs and almost a quarter of U.S. GDP, we want to thank you for holding the July 26 hearing to “Examine Opportunities for Congress to Reform the Process for Permitting Electric Transmission Lines, Pipelines, and Energy Production on Federal Lands.”

We welcome the continued discussion on permitting and are eager to provide constructive, bipartisan solutions for additional reforms. To achieve the goals of recent legislation, Congress and the Administration should continue to improve the federal permitting process, particularly for energy projects. Permitting reform can address escalating costs, critical minerals supply chain vulnerabilities, transmission constraints and other barriers to American energy success. The most significant action Congress can take to increase the production and export of American energy is to further streamline the permitting process to make it easier to build American infrastructure and grow America’s clean energy capacity.

Business Roundtable strongly supported the meaningful bipartisan reforms to the permitting process included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, including:

- Requiring lead or joint lead agencies to supervise environmental reviews;
- Requiring single, page-limited environmental review documents;
- Establishing time limits on the environmental review process; and
- Expanding the use of categorical exclusions.

We encourage policymakers to build on that progress and enact additional reforms to address remaining barriers to unleashing American energy. Attached are Business Roundtable’s recommendations for how best to increase domestic energy production and export, expand and improve transmission capabilities and capacity and expand access to key raw materials, including critical minerals.

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We are pleased that you are continuing to work to find meaningful, bipartisan reforms. The work of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is important to the effort of making it easier to build American infrastructure and grow America's clean energy capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Astill'.

Corey Astill
Vice President
Business Roundtable

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Sonnesyn'.

Matt Sonnesyn
Vice President
Business Roundtable