Business Roundtable

Permitting Reform: Enact the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026

The Problem

The federal permitting system for major infrastructure projects is an overly complex, time-consuming process that hinders investment, innovation, economic growth and job creation.

4–5 years
Average time for federal project reviews

Redundant reviews
Multiple agencies, overlapping processes

Over 650
Major infrastructure projects on hold

$1.8 trillion
Investment stuck in permitting backlog

24–30% higher costs
Associated with permitting delays

The Opportunity

Modernizing the permitting process would lower costs, streamline projects and create more American jobs.



$3 Trillion+
In economic activity unlocked



38–54 Million
Homes powered



640,000
New good-paying jobs in multiple sectors across the country



Global Competitiveness
Faster approvals will help the U.S. lead in energy, technology and manufacturing



$350 Billion
In savings from lower electricity costs

The Solution

Business Roundtable encourages policymakers to enact the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act, which would:

- **Unlock energy supply** to help address rising prices by establishing uniform requirements for all types of energy projects.
- **Create more jobs and investment in American communities** by establishing hard deadlines and predictable approvals that would support construction activity, employment and spending at local businesses.
- **Deliver transportation improvements across the country** by building new infrastructure that could deliver 130 million passenger trips annually, expanding access to jobs and services.
- **Tackle the entire path from proposal to construction,** changing which projects require federal review, how agencies conduct reviews, approval timelines, how and when decisions can be challenged, and ensuring completed permits remain dependable.

Sources: 1) McKinsey & Company, "Unlocking US federal permitting: A sustainable growth imperative" (July 28, 2025); 2) Business Roundtable, "Building a Prosperous Future" (September 15, 2025); "Resources for the Future, Analysis on permitting reform" (2024); 3) McKinsey & Company, "Federal permitting's uneven economic impact, and what companies can do about it" (October 22, 2026).