Business Roundtable

Permitting Reform: Unlocking America's Potential

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

$1.5 trillion
Investment stuck in permitting backlog

The Opportunity

Modernizing the permitting process would unlock domestic investment, American energy production and economic growth.

$1.7–2.4 trillion
GDP growth unlocked

38–54 million
Homes powered

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

The Solution

Business Roundtable encourages policymakers to enact durable, bipartisan permitting reforms.

- **Expedited Reviews:** Expand categorical exclusions, permit by rule and focus NEPA on true impacts
- **Tech-Driven Permitting:** Require digital tools and data-sharing
- **Energy & Grid Buildout:** Fast-track LNG, pipelines, power plants and transmission
- **Litigation Reform:** Impose reasonable deadlines and reduce injunction abuse
- **Secure Supply Chains:** Accelerate critical minerals mining, processing and recycling
- **Modern Infrastructure:** Simplify approvals for AI data centers, broadband, fiber and wireless

Sources: McKinsey & Company, Unlocking US federal permitting: A sustainable growth imperative (July 28, 2025); Business Roundtable, Building a Prosperous Future (September 15, 2025)