



Committee: House Natural Resources Committee

Event: [Full Committee Markup](#)

Date: November 20, 2025

Member Toplines:

Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04): Westerman underscored the need to reform the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA), pointing to bureaucratic delays and red tape that slow permitting and project completion. He referenced litigation against energy projects and rising electricity demand, driven by artificial intelligence (AI), as factors increasing the urgency for reform. He discussed U.S. reliance on China for critical minerals and stated that it takes an average of 29 years to permit new mines. Westerman argued that the SPEED Act would address these challenges by limiting excessive litigation and providing clearer guidance to federal agencies on their review responsibilities. He emphasized the bill's project-neutral approach, bipartisan sponsorship, and broad industry support. Beyond the SPEED Act, he noted that the markup also includes two additional NEPA-related bills and five unanimous consent measures.

*Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA-02)*¹: Huffman argued that NEPA is an effective law and rejected what he described as Westerman's "false narrative" that NEPA is well-intended but poorly executed. He framed the hearing within the broader context of the shutdown, recent grid reliability concerns, and the Administration's actions against renewable energy projects, specifically that wind and solar projects are being halted. Huffman claimed that Democrats have never targeted fossil fuel projects in the way Republicans are now targeting renewables, and warned that the policies being used to limit renewable energy could just as easily be applied to fossil fuel generation. He cited rising energy demand and prices as reasons to oppose the administration's actions against clean energy development and said there must be congressional pushback from Republicans. He concluded that while permitting reform is needed, the SPEED Act is not the right answer.

Legislation Considered:

- I. **Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act, or "the SPEED Act" ([H.R. 4776](#))**
 - A. Westerman noted that since the Committee first considered the SPEED Act in September, he has worked across the aisle to incorporate bipartisan changes. He said that work still needs to be done, and he said that the amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) will include provisions he believes Democrats can support, including technology-agnostic benefits. He also highlighted growing support for the bill, citing endorsements from more than 325 organizations and fourteen new co-sponsors.

¹ Member statements were not available at the time of distribution.

- B. Democrats largely opposed the legislation, contending that the bill disregards many necessary environmental protections. They also called out the Trump Administration's recent attacks on renewable energy development. However, one Democrat, Rep. **Adam Gray** (D-CA-13) discussed his support for the SPEED Act as it relates to California's State Water Infrastructure Project, noting that the current permitting process has significantly stalled progress.
1. Huffman expressed strong opposition to the bill. He specifically condemned a provision exempting all federally-funded projects from NEPA, noting that this would allow a substantial number of projects to proceed without understanding their potential environmental impacts. He also criticized the judicial review provisions and stated that, while there is bipartisan interest in permitting reform, this proposal does not balance reforms with critical environmental protections.
 2. Rep. **Emily Randall** (D-WA-06) also opposed, arguing that the bill was not developed in "good faith." She also criticized the Administration's actions to dismantle the federal workforce and renewable energy development.
 3. Rep. **Seth Magaziner** (D-RI-02) argued that energy costs are too high for everyday Americans. He contended that the Trump Administration has wrongly attacked clean energy projects, arguing that the government should work to increase all types of energy production. He emphasized the need to include language preventing any Administration from blocking energy projects from being added to the grid.
 - a) Magaziner shared his intent to introduce a number of amendments to reverse the Administration's ability to halt energy projects, tighten up NEPA reforms, and protect domestic development. He said that he would support the SPEED Act with reforms, but if they cannot agree to ensure protections for energy projects in a technology-neutral manner, he will oppose the bill.
 4. Rep. **Yassamin Ansari** (D-AZ-03) expressed strong opposition to the SPEED Act, arguing that this bill drastically shrinks the definition of NEPA, ties the hands of federal agencies, and guts judicial reviews that protect marginalized communities. She also condemned the lack of transmission provisions included in the legislation.
 - a) In response, Westerman introduced statements of support from a number of clean energy trade associations into the record, including American Clean Power, American Council on Renewable Energy, Clean Energy Grid Action, Geothermal Rising, and the Zero Emissions Transportation Association.
 5. Rep. **Teresa Leger Fernandez** (D-NM-03) emphasized the need to support wind and solar energy development as a solution to address rising utility costs. She noted that Trump is attacking wind farms everywhere, and she argued in favor of strong guardrails and protections to prevent administrations from attacking entire industries.
 6. Huffman criticized the Trump Administration's "reckless" approach to preventing wind and solar development. He also characterized the legislation as an attempt to silence public feedback.

- C. Republicans emphasized the importance of permitting reform for all energy types. They maintained that the legislation is a balanced approach to reform, and many discussed specific instances where reforms were needed.
1. Rep. **Pete Stauber** (R-MN-08) spoke in support of the SPEED Act, arguing that the permitting system is in desperate need of reform. He argued it does not seek to weaken environmental protections outlined in the *Clean Water Act*, *Clean Air Act*, and the *Endangered Species Act*.
 2. Rep. **Harriet Hageman** (R-WY-AL) argued in favor of the Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) recent [decision](#) in the *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado* (Seven Counties) case, arguing in favor of reasonable judicial review to protect responsible development. She condemned the distortion of NEPA to advance political agendas, and she emphasized the need to codify the SCOTUS decision to support the AI race, infrastructure development, and more. She emphasized that this decision is energy-agnostic and will support development regardless of technology. She also questioned the ability of solar and wind power to support Wyoming's energy needs.
 3. Rep. **Nick Begich** (R-AK-AL) argued that permitting reform is a "survival issue" for Alaskans. He emphasized strong support for the NEPA reforms outlined in the SPEED Act, specifically calling out the legislation's intent to narrow the scope of environmental reviews and quicken timelines for completeness determinations and judicial action.
 4. Reps. **Celeste Maloy** (R-UT-02) and **Mike Kennedy** (R-UT-03) emphasized the need for permitting and process certainty in Utah.
 5. Rep. **Jeff Hurd** (R-CO-03) argued that the current NEPA process gives an advantage to our foreign competitors, especially China.

II. Amendments to H.R. 4776

A. Westerman 42 ANS

1. Westerman reiterated that the ANS reflects the balanced input of his colleagues, technical assistance from federal agencies, and hundreds of comments from the public.

B. Hurd 032 – Amends the ANS to add clarifying language to the "Actions For Use of Tribal Trust Resources" section of the SPEED Act. Specifies that this language only applies to lands that are in existing trusts around final agency actions.

1. Hurd argued that this language was brought to his attention from a number of Tribal communities. Huffman opposed this amendment. However, Huffman said he would like to work with Hurd on this in the future, and he emphasized the need to include a range of Tribal voices in consultation over this provision.
2. The amendment was agreed to by voice vote.

C. Golden 002 – Subjects agency cancellations to judicial review.

1. Rep. **Sarah Elfreth** (D-MD-03) expressed support for efforts to increase permitting efficiency and predictability, and she emphasized the need to include language on tech-neutrality and parity for all projects, citing recent clean energy project cancellations in Magaziner's district.

2. Rep. **Tom McClintock** (R-TX-05) argued that wind and solar do not make energy cheaper. Leger Fernandez noted that research shows that even without federal subsidies, additions of renewable energy do decrease energy costs. Magaziner agreed, noting that wind and solar are becoming cost-competitive and even cheaper than traditional energy sources across the country.
 3. Huffman thanked Rep. **Jared Golden** (D-ME-02) for the amendment, but stated that it does not sufficiently address the Trump Administration's broader actions to limit clean energy.
 4. Westerman supported the amendment, framing it as a certainty measure consistent with the bill's intent.
 5. Magaziner also supported the amendment, but objected to its prospective application. He said he will offer a later amendment to extend protections back to January 2025.
 6. Vote: The amendment is agreed to on a voice vote.
- D. Huffman 001 – Strikes the language classifying NEPA as a purely procedural statute, specifically regarding the scope of environmental analyses federal agencies are required to consider in their reviews.
1. Huffman argued that the SPEED Act substitutes the congressional intent of NEPA entirely.
 2. Westerman expressed opposition to the amendment.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 17-24.
- E. Huffman 003 – Prevents the bill from taking effect until all previously-terminated awards for clean energy production are reinstated, and protects these awards from future termination attempts.
1. Huffman noted that the Administration has unduly attacked and stalled clean energy projects, specifically calling out the termination of approvals for offshore wind projects.
 2. Westerman opposed, arguing that the amendment is outside of the scope of NEPA and should instead be proposed to the House Appropriations Committee. He also argued that the SPEED Act would be beneficial for projects receiving federal funding.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 18-23.
- F. Huffman 013 – Strikes the provision narrowing the definition of a major federal action under NEPA.
1. Huffman argued this definition change has a sweeping effect on environmental safeguards, emphasizing the need for accountability and public engagement in all large infrastructure projects. By declaring that most federal funding mechanisms are no longer subject to NEPA, Huffman contends that federal accountability for a number of massive transportation, energy, and water infrastructure projects will be rescinded. He also criticized the change of "sufficient control" to "complete control," arguing that agencies rarely ever have total control over projects and infrastructure development.

2. Westerman expressed opposition to the amendment, arguing the definition of major federal action is improved and now clarifies that major federal funding and grants doesn't automatically trigger NEPA. He contended that simply having a federal nexus shouldn't trigger NEPA. He argued that the change will allow energy grants to move forward rather than being stuck in review.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 16-25.
- G. Huffman 026 – Strikes the provision of the bill that would narrow the scope of what federal agencies may consider in a review.
1. Huffman argued that the SCOTUS Seven Counties decision left agencies with broad discretion regarding what impacts agencies may consider during NEPA reviews. He argued that the text would force agencies to ignore historical precedent, putting communities at risk.
 2. Westerman and Stauber opposed the amendment. Westerman argued that the amendment would result in increased agency uncertainty and litigation, providing no limit on what NEPA reviews may consider. Rep. **Jeff Crank** (R-CO-05) also warned that frivolous lawsuits would allow the U.S. to fall behind China.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 17-24.
- H. Huffman 030 - Requires agencies to publish a draft environmental reviews and hold standard public comment period before finalizing any environmental permitting reviews.
1. Huffman argued that permitting reform will help fossil fuel development and mineral extraction while leaving renewable energy behind. He emphasized the need for public participation in the permitting process.
 2. Westerman and Stauber opposed the amendment, arguing that permitting reform will help all types of energy production.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 17-24.
- I. Leger Fernandez 015 - Strikes the proposed addition to the statement of purpose and need.
1. Leger Fernandez contended that the SPEED Act shifts the focus on the goals of the applicant rather than the communities impacted by the development. Huffman supported the amendment, arguing that the amendment ensures agencies are balancing environmental responsibilities, community needs, and development.
 2. Westerman opposed the amendment, explaining that the language simply prevents agencies from pushing political preferences into NEPA reviews.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 16-25.
- J. Leger Fernandez 016 - Strikes language requiring members of the public to submit a unique and substantive comment to ensure legal standing.
1. Leger Fernandez stressed that the requirement that all comments be "unique" defeats the purpose of NEPA.

2. Stauber and Crank opposed the amendment. Crank highlighted that NEPA is the most litigated statute, and that most lawsuits are not built on legitimate complaints. He and Hageman contended that the amendment would allow frivolous litigation to persist. Westerman argued that legitimate environmental complaints should be brought up during the public comment period, rather than being used to hold up the project.
 3. Huffman and Randall expressed support for the amendment.
 4. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 17-24.
- K. Min 017 - Requires the Department of the Interior (DOI) to repeal recent guidance requiring all clean energy projects on federal lands to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
1. Rep. **Dave Min** (D-CA-17) argued that this requirement only serves to slow down the development of new clean energy sources. Min condemned the Stop Work Order issued to Orsted's Revolution Wind Project in Rhode Island, arguing it put thousands of jobs at risk and hurt energy supply. He argued that the amendment is necessary to put an end to the Administration's "lawless" opposition to clean energy.
 2. Westerman opposed the amendment, arguing that the amendment goes beyond the bill's scope.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 17-24.
- L. Dexter 023 - Requires agencies to notify the public and accept feedback when they create or adopt new categorical exclusions (CATEXs).
1. Rep. **Maxine Dexter** (D-OR-03) argued that the SPEED Act decreases transparency into the CATEX designation process for local communities.
 2. Stauber opposed the amendment, contending that the amendment would increase regulatory burdens and delays.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 18-24.
- M. Dexter 029 - Requires permitting agencies to determine if they have enough staff to carry out permitting processes.
1. Dexter stressed that her amendment addresses one of the largest contributors to delays in NEPA reviews: staffing shortages. However, she withdrew the amendment from consideration.
- N. Magaziner 006 - Amends the definition of "multiple use," and instructs the Secretary of the Interior to proactively manage public lands to encourage renewable energy development.
1. Magaziner criticized the Trump Administration's use of the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act's* (FLPMA) multiple-use mandate to disadvantage solar and onshore wind projects. He also criticized a DOI Secretarial Order regarding the evaluation of renewable energy development based on capacity density. He said that the Administration claimed that offshore wind development is inconsistent with the *Outer Continental Shelf Land Act* (OCSLA). Magaziner argued that Revolution Wind is key to delivering electricity to the state of Rhode Island, and he

- stressed that there is no reason for the Administration to delay offshore wind projects if their goal is to reduce energy costs.
2. The amendment was ruled “not germane.”
- O. Magaziner 007 - Codifies protections for projects from cancellation beginning on January 20th, 2025.
1. Magaziner emphasized the harm of blocking a project that has already been approved, as occurred with the Revolution Wind. Magaziner explained that his amendment will prevent clean energy projects from being held up by the Administration.
 2. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 19-24.
- P. Magaziner 008 - Gives courts the authority to vacate a project approval or issue an injunction to temporarily halt a project if a court determines that a lack of agency staffing led to an incomplete or inadequate review.
1. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 19-24.
- Q. Magaziner 009 - Requires that state and Tribal environmental reviews must be substantively the same as federal reviews.
1. Magaziner argued that his amendment will uphold stringent environmental reviews, while cutting duplicative processes.
 2. Stauber opposed the amendment, noting it would complicate review processes for states and Tribes.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 19-24.
- R. Randall 020 - Exempts Tribes from the 21 day timeframe to become a cooperating agency on a project.
1. Randall explained that many Tribes around the country have limited funding capacity and require adequate time to review, assess, and respond to proposals that could impact their protected lands and waters. Huffman supported the amendment, stressing that it is vital to ensure that Tribal communities continue to have access to judicial review.
 2. Stauber opposed the amendment, arguing that the SPEED Act was constructed in consultation with Tribes and local stakeholders to ensure that frivolous litigation is not applied against protected Tribal lands.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 19-24.
- S. Randall 022 - Requires that offshore oil and gas lease sales mandated by the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* must go through NEPA.
1. Huffman supported the amendment. He noted that the DOI Secretary’s recent claims that offshore oil and gas leases are not subject to the NEPA process undermines the entire NEPA process and will severely endanger coastal ecosystems and communities.
 2. Stauber opposed the amendment, arguing the amendment unnecessarily targets offshore oil and gas lease sales.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 20-23.

- T. Randall 031 - Prevents the SPEED Act from taking effect until staffing levels at permitting agencies and offices match or exceed the levels of January 1, 2025.
 - 1. Randall noted that staffing cuts under the Trump Administration are severely slowing down the NEPA process. Huffman and Elfreth expressed support for the amendment.
 - 2. Stauber and Westerman opposed the amendment, contending that the main cause of permitting delays is duplicative processes and unnecessary litigation.
 - 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 17-26.
- U. Ansari 009 - Allows agencies to consider new or emerging scientific data during environmental reviews.
 - 1. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 18-25.
- V. Rivas 011 - Makes the public comment process accessible in different languages.
 - 1. Huffman supported the amendment, noting that the process should account for each community's unique language, customs, and access to resources such as the internet and transportation.
 - 2. Westerman opposed the amendment, stating that it provides ambiguous language that could be used to lengthen NEPA reviews and increase litigation.
 - 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 20-23.
- W. Rivas 012 - Requires the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to incorporate renewable energy into its mission.
 - 1. Westerman opposed the amendment, stressing that the amendment is not technology-neutral.
 - 2. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 20-23.
- X. Grijalva 014 - Ensures that CEQ's guidance to the President reflects the full scope of environmental challenges.
 - 1. Rep. **Adelita Grijalva** D-AZ-07 argued that CEQ has reduced protections for communities that have been impacted by weakened environmental quality standards. Huffman supported the amendment, arguing that CEQ should not be used to promote oil and gas development. Stauber and Westerman opposed.
 - 2. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 16-26.
- Y. Brownley 024 - Preserves the authority of courts under NEPA to ensure agency compliance and enforce Stop Work Orders.
 - 1. Rep. **Julia Brownley** (D-CA-26) argued the bill undermines the public's right to safeguard their own health and environment by preventing courts from issuing meaningful remedies.
 - 2. Rep. **Melanie Stansbury** (D-NM-01) supported the amendment. She stressed that cutting the capacity of communities to go to the courts to

defend their right will fundamentally undermine the purpose of NEPA and the transparency of its process.

3. Westerman opposed the amendment. He explained that the courts have been abused to severely hinder development, highlighting Resolution Copper as an example.

- a) Stansbury argued that the lands that Resolution Copper wants to develop on are sacred to Tribes and have been protected since the 1800s. She added the project violates the Apache people's rights, and she asked Westerman how the SPEED Act would protect those Tribal land rights.
- b) Westerman responded that Resolution Copper had already received the necessary permits to construct the mine and began heavily investing in the project.
- c) Stansbury countered that Congress has a responsibility to protect the American people. She argued that the Congress does not have a responsibility to protect foreign mining companies. Stansbury asked Westerman if he believes that Congress should pass legislation allowing a foreign mining company to mine on American public lands and take away the rights of Tribes.
- d) Westerman explained that Congress has a responsibility to not pick winners and losers or pass laws that are biased against specific companies or investments.

4. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 18-25.

Z. Brownley 025 - Maintains judicial reviews for state or Tribal environmental reviews.

1. Brownley supported the amendment, stressing that if the federal government is allowed to substitute federal review processes with state review processes, there would cease to be any standard for environmental reviews and increase legal uncertainty.
2. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 18-25.

AA. Lee 002 - Restores parity for all forms of energy at DOI.

1. Rep. **Susie Lee** (D-NV-03) argued that the Trump Administration has directly targeted the renewable energy industry. She also highlighted the DOI Secretarial Order on wind and solar approvals, and referenced Nevada Gov. **Joe Lombardo's** (R) warning that the order has effectively halted solar development on federal lands in Nevada. Lee said the memo has "weaponized" DOI against the solar industry, affecting more than 500 projects nationwide. She emphasized that permitting parity is essential to deploying all forms of energy needed to meet rising demand.
2. Rep. **Darren Soto** (D-FL-09) supported the amendment, stressing that the Administration should not be picking winners and losers.
3. Westerman opposed the amendment, arguing that the SPEED Act's scope is on maintaining parity across the energy industry. Rep. **Wesley Hunt** (R-TX-38) also opposed the amendment, stressing that it is not the job of Congress to choose outcomes in the energy industry.

4. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 19-24.
- BB. Huffman 028- Amends the judicial review language by aligning the statute of limitations with the two year approach used under Title 41 of the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act* (FAST-41).
1. Huffman emphasized the role judicial review plays in the NEPA process and agreed that timelines may warrant refinement. He pointed to FAST-41 as bipartisan precedent for adjusting judicial review procedures without undermining environmental protections.
 2. Westerman opposed the amendment, arguing that it would effectively strike the SPEED Act's judicial review provisions.
 3. A recorded vote was requested on this amendment. The amendment failed on a vote of 18-25.
- III. Final Vote on H.R. 4776: **Passed out of Committee on a vote of 18-25.**
- A. **Yeas:** Bentz; Begich; Boebert; Collins; Crank; Ezell; Fulcher; Gosar; Hageman; Hunt; Hurd; Kennedy; Kiggans; LaMalfa; Maloy; McClintock; McDowell; Stauber; Tiffany; Walberg; Webster; Westerman; Wittman; Golden; Gray
 - B. **Nays:** Ansari; Brownley; Dexter; Dingell; Elfreth; Grijalva; Hernandez; Hoyle; Huffman; Leger Fernandez; Magaziner; Min; Neguse; Randall; Rivas; Soto; Stansbury; Lee
 - C. **No Vote:** Amodei; Radewagen
- IV. The remainder of the bills before the Committee were considered in a single unanimous consent motion based on a bipartisan agreement. Westerman noted that the legislation considered within the unanimous consent motion may include some amendments that were agreed to in backdoor negotiations with the Minority. The legislation included in this motion is as follows:
- A. Studying NEPA's Impact on Projects Act ([H.R. 573](#))
 - B. ePermit Act ([H.R. 4503](#))
 - C. To amend the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the "Long-Term Leasing Act"), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and for other purposes ([H.R. 681](#))
 - D. Chugach Alaska Land Exchange Oil Spill Recovery Act of 2025 ([H.R. 3903](#))
 - E. Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act ([H.R. 4467](#))
 - F. To amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass ([H.R. 4386](#))
 - G. Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025 ([H.R. 5131](#))