

STREAMLINE PERMITTING

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TOPLINE: Federal and state permitting rules cause large delays and expense on most major projects.

BACKGROUND: It often takes many years and many millions of dollars to get permission from multiple federal and state agencies to build a new factory, mine, oil or gas wells, power plant (whether using conventional or alternative sources of [energy](#)), transmission line, or similar project. The expense and delay involved in securing permits increases costs, [drives](#) manufacturing and other industrial production out of the United States, and results in the loss of many high-paying jobs. Incremental reforms have not successfully addressed the problem.

Action Items (Congress and States):

- **The law should require that a lead agency be assigned for each application.**
 - Other agencies should be required to cooperate with the lead agency. (This is sometimes referred to as a “one-stop shop”).
- **The law should require that the lead agency “shall issue” the required permits within a specified period** unless the agency establishes, in written findings of law and fact, that clear and convincing evidence demonstrates that the permit should not be issued.
- **Congress should create and fund a specialized Article III court** (not a captive administrative law court) **that can expeditiously resolve permitting disputes**, including whether a [permit](#) should be granted and whether the information provided is sufficient.
 - Congress should require that all third parties (whether private parties or state or local governments) who wish to contest a permitting decision must engage at this point in the litigation, and **it should bar third parties from challenging the granting of a permit in other jurisdictions or venues or at a later date.**

How It Would Make Life More Affordable:

- Streamlined permitting would increase supply and competition, reduce costs and prices, and enhance wages and opportunity.

Related Federal Legislation: RED Tape Act ([H.R. 6398](#)); SPEED Act ([H.R. 4776](#)); FREE Act ([S. 238](#), [H.R. 689](#)); CERTAIN Act ([H.R. 8308](#)); FREEDOM Act ([H.R. 7329](#)); SPEED and Reliability Act of 2025 ([H.R. 5600](#)).

Related State Legislation: State Permit Transparency and Efficiency Act; By-Right Housing Development Act

BOTTOMLINE: The current permitting system is a massive obstacle to prosperity because it reduces competition, sacrifices good jobs, and increases costs and prices.