



American
Petroleum
Institute

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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The American Petroleum Institute (API) writes in support of H.R. 1, *The Lower Energy Costs Act*. Ensuring our country's energy security has never been more critical, and the fact that the first major legislation of the 118th Congress is focused on energy issues reflects a commitment to providing reliable, affordable energy for the American people.

As the only trade association representing the entire value chain of the U.S. oil and natural gas industry, API is committed to supporting policies that enable increased domestic energy production, unlock the power of U.S. liquified natural gas (LNG) and boost our nation's economy. "Energy security is national security" has become a common refrain, and with good reason. Demand for energy will continue to rise in the coming decades, and independent analysis shows that oil and natural gas are going to play an important role in fulfilling global energy needs for the foreseeable future. The question is whether these resources will come from here in the U.S., where they are produced under some of the strictest environmental standards in the world, or if the U.S. will cede our position as a global energy leader and instead become reliant on foreign sources to supply our energy needs. H.R. 1 will help position the United States to meet this global demand, to the benefit of Americans and our allies around the world.

One particular focus of API and our members is enacting serious, bipartisan permitting reform. Too many projects have been scuttled because of onerous regulations and uncertainty. The delays and denials of permits, stemming from lengthy regulatory reviews and drawn-out judicial proceedings, have stifled needed investments and increased costs. Modern infrastructure can ensure energy remains reliable and affordable for American consumers; create good-paying jobs; give U.S. manufacturers a competitive advance through lower energy and raw material costs; and provide revenue to local, state and federal governments. Permitting reform not only supports our ability to increase oil and natural gas production safely and effectively but could also allow renewable and other infrastructure projects to move forward instead of languishing in a regulatory maze.

Members of both parties in Congress, administration officials and President Biden agree that permitting reform is necessary. Proposals such as the Building United States Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews Act of 2023 (BUILDER Act) would provide increased certainty around NEPA environmental reviews, as well as better define judicial review timelines to ensure the durability of permits and meet the objectives of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Real, lasting change comes from bipartisan, common-sense, economically-sound solutions. We all share the common goals of providing reliable energy to Americans; enhancing our energy security; cementing our energy independence for years to come; and making energy safer, cleaner, and more affordable. API and our members are encouraged by this Congress' efforts to enact such change, which will make a measurable and meaningful impact in the lives of many. We look forward to continuing to collaborate on solutions that make a difference and commend this exciting step toward enacting permitting reform this year.

All the best,