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November 19, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman,

Thank you to you and Congressman Golden for your leadership on the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (H.R. 4776), or the SPEED Act. Cumbersome permitting is one of the most significant barriers to American innovation and your legislation takes a meaningful step toward removing that obstacle. The Consumer Technology Association (CTA®) supports and urges the passage of the SPEED Act to bring common sense reform to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

CTA is the largest tech trade association in North America representing more than 1200 companies from iconic global brands to early-stage startups supporting more than 18 million American jobs. 80% of CTA companies are small businesses and startups. CTA also owns and produces CES®—the world's most powerful tech event.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is unlocking new possibilities across every sector of the economy: healthcare, logistics and manufacturing, education and beyond. Sustaining this growth requires modern energy infrastructure. Reliable, scalable, and innovative energy systems are now central to America's competitiveness. Without decisive action, the U.S. risks falling behind in the global AI race.

CTA supports a forward-looking energy strategy that accelerates the responsible growth of AI and strengthens American technology leadership. Energy projects that support this growth, including data centers, transmission lines, and grid modernization efforts, routinely face delays measured in years. Federal permitting processes slow progress and delay the building of new energy infrastructure needed to power U.S. AI innovation. McKinsey & Company estimates the median review takes about three years—with some projects, like the SunZia transmission line, facing delays of up to 17 years.¹ Dominion Energy reported that the wait time to connect large data centers to the electric grid has climbed to as long as seven years due to surging demand². Longterm bottlenecks impede the scale and speed of AI infrastructure deployment.

¹ McKinsey, Powering a New Era of U.S. Energy Demand, 2025.

² Bloomberg, "Data Centers Face Seven-Year Wait for Dominion Power Hookups," Aug. 2024.

CTA supports NEPA permitting reform to accelerate project timelines, set firm deadlines for decisions, and provide greater clarity to federal agencies. A streamlined process will reduce project timelines and development costs while unleashing America's ability to lead in next-generation technologies. Modern innovation requires modern approval processes. The SPEED Act delivers just that.

We appreciate your leadership on NEPA reform. This bipartisan legislation will eliminate barriers and bottlenecks that have slowed progress on energy and infrastructure projects essential to America's AI leadership. Without passage of the SPEED Act, the U.S. risks falling behind in the global AI race. CTA looks forward to working with you to advance our shared goals.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Shapiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Shapiro" clearly distinguishable.

Gary Shapiro
CEO and Vice Chair
Consumer Technology Association