

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2015

**Help Create Jobs and Get Infrastructure and Energy
Projects Moving Forward**

Become an Original Cosponsor of the *RAPID Act*

Dear Colleague:

In the coming days I look forward to reintroducing the *RAPID Act* in the 114th Congress. Last year the *RAPID Act* (then H.R. 2641) was agreed to in the House on March 6, 2014 with 229 members from both sides of the aisle voting in favor.

A 2011 study commissioned by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce identified 351 delayed infrastructure and energy projects that, if approved, could generate \$1.1 trillion in economic activity and create 1.9 million jobs annually during the projected seven years of construction. Unfortunately, current law has allowed agency bureaucrats and environmental activists to abuse the permitting process, which grants them an unlimited time period to raise objections, to unnecessarily delay projects in hopes that they will ultimately be abandoned.

The *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969* serves the worthy goal of enhancing our environment through the evaluation of the environmental effects of a project. Federal agencies *should* have awareness of how their actions affect the environment, and the decision-making process should be transparent to the public as well. However, as the Obama Administration, the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, and legislation adopted by a bipartisan majority in the 109th and 112th Congresses all recognized, overly burdensome and lengthy environmental reviews and permitting processes undermines economic growth.

The *RAPID Act* would restore the balance between thorough analysis and timely decision-making in the federal permitting process. It will not force agencies to approve more permit applications and I cannot argue that every project application merits approval. This bill uses existing *NEPA* regulations and guidance to streamline the federal environmental review and permitting process. It simplifies the overlapping bureaucracy by allowing a lead agency to manage environmental reviews from start to finish. It also provides more certainty to businesses and investors by instituting a 4.5 year maximum deadline to complete the review process and by establishing a limited 180 day window in which parties may file suit.

Americans are ready to work, investors are ready to get capital off the sideline, and businesses are eager to create jobs. I urge you to sign on as a cosponsor to this critical legislation because we need to ensure that we are doing everything we can to that supports job creation.

To get more information or to sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Bill Tighe of my staff at bill.tighe@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,



Tom Marino
Member of Congress

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