November 2, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito, Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

On behalf of the millions of members of the undersigned building and construction trades unions, we write to urge the swift passage of S. 5653, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act. Thanks to the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works Committees, and the careful deliberation of all parties, meaningful permitting reform is finally within reach.

In our industries, uncertainty means only one thing: unemployment. This legislation will reduce uncertainty and streamline our nation's energy permitting process, ensuring our members are not stuck in regulatory limbo, but are instead out on jobsites keeping the lights on and bringing down energy costs for American families.

Our members are the driving force behind American infrastructure. We build and maintain essential infrastructure, from our nation's highways, roads, and bridges to our schools, hospitals, and office buildings. We deliver clean and safe water, and we build the next generation of our clean energy future, from wind and solar to nuclear, hydrogen, and natural gas. But our archaic and redundant regulatory framework often leads to years-long delays, administrative bottlenecks, and the risk of frivolous litigation. Activists have used this system to their advantage to weaponize the process and put our members out of work.

These unnecessary hurdles and red tape raise project costs, delay critical energy deployment at a time when energy demand is skyrocketing—meaning American families are paying more to keep their homes heated—and jeopardize good-paying jobs for our members. The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act will not remove essential environmental protections or weaken safety and quality standards. Instead, it will establish reasonable timelines for judicial review, streamline and increase transparency within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and significantly improve the water quality certification process. Perhaps most importantly, it will establish project certainty, helping ensure our members are not left out of work because of bureaucratic red tape or yet another lawsuit filed by a group with no direct involvement in a project but a political agenda to advance.

This legislation is proof of what can be accomplished when leaders from both parties come together to advance common-sense legislation. With energy costs skyrocketing and new national security threats emerging from all corners, modernizing our grid and strengthening our energy independence are essential. This bill will help ensure the United States continues to lead in the development of clean energy, built by the hardworking men and women who power this nation: our members, the skilled craftspeople we represent.

We urge both the Senate and the House to pass S. 5653, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act, as currently written so we can finally enact meaningful permitting reform that creates good-paying jobs and builds the foundation for our energy independence.

Sincerely,

International Association of Iron Workers (IW)

International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART)

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (Boilermakers)

International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Teamsters)

International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)

Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)

United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA)