



September 27, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin:

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business voice of the nation’s engineering industry – supports the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2022 (EISA).

ACEC is a national federation of 52 state and regional councils representing more than 5,500 engineering firms employing more than 600,000 people. ACEC firms design the nation’s energy, water, transportation, and buildings infrastructure for public and private sector clients.

Passage of the EISA will remove barriers and unnecessary delays in permitting critical energy infrastructure for the clients we serve. EISA would modernize key permitting laws that hinder progress on decarbonization, electrification, and hydrogen development. Further, EISA would prioritize projects to assure that the energy transition is effective. Taken together these provisions will greatly enhance delivery of the infrastructure envisioned under the Energy Act of 2020, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

Expectations of delivery on these infrastructure commitments requires timely and effective planning, prioritization, design, and construction. EISA permitting reform, modernization of key resource and infrastructure laws, and prioritization of projects will allow for optimal performance of limited design and construction services.

Permitting reform under the EISA is key to removal of barriers and delays for projects that address climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, and energy reliability, affordability, and security. Importantly, EISA reforms bring energy and critical minerals development into the same bipartisan permit management system (“FAST-41”) developed for transportation infrastructure over the past two decades and recently modified by IIJA.

Modernization of permitting laws such as the Clean Water Act, Federal Power Act, and the Natural Gas Act will remove key barriers to a clean energy transition and advance decarbonization, electrification, and hydrogen deployment. The prioritization of critical projects is important for strategic delivery of projects essential for energy security.

For these reasons, ACEC urges you and your colleagues to expeditiously enact EISA into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Bauer Darr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Bauer Darr
President & CEO