



July 30, 2024

Chairman Manchin
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Barrasso
Energy and National Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

On behalf of the National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED), I write to offer our support for the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024*.

NAED is a trade association for the \$100+ billion electrical distribution industry which represents more than 600 distributors and manufacturers of electrical products with more than 5,000 locations across the country. Our members are companies of all sizes - from small and mid-sized independents to large regional and national firms.

The demand for our members' products is growing due to a nationwide push towards electrification and the nearly \$2 trillion in historic infrastructure and clean energy investments enacted by Congress in recent years. The current costly, timely, and clumsy permitting process, often plagued by project-level litigation at every step, has held back the potential benefits of these investments. If Congress fails to act, even more large-scale infrastructure and clean energy projects could be tied up in court for decades, negating Congress's intent to spur investment and fast-track decarbonization of the US economy. Simply put, the current permitting process does not reflect the urgency required to modernize our grid.

NAED strongly supports the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024* and applauds your bipartisan efforts to streamline the permitting process without compromising environmental considerations. Your bill would reduce bureaucratic hurdles and improve transparency, enabling the timely deployment of these historic investments in a cleaner and more efficient US economy. Our members are committed to providing the products needed to realize policymakers' vision, but for these products to deliver benefits at the scale needed and envisioned by Congressional action, the electrical grid must be updated more expeditiously than current permitting practice allows.

Thank you for your consistent bipartisan efforts to pass the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024* and we look forward to working with your offices to move this important legislation forward in Congress.

Sincerely,

Edward Orlet
Senior Vice President for Membership and Government Relations
National Association of Electrical Distributors