



July 3, 2025

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairman
Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member McGovern, and Members of the Committee:

As Chair of the Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) I write to express strong support for H.R. 3898, the *Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act*, on behalf of our member associations. This legislation is essential to providing clarity and certainty within the Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting process for landowners and other regulated entities across the country.

WAC represents a cross-section of the nation's construction, transportation, real estate, mining, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, energy, wildlife conservation, and public health and safety sectors—all of which are vital to a thriving national economy and provide much-needed jobs in local communities. The CWA has long served as a cornerstone of environmental protection; however, the permitting process has become increasingly complex, inconsistent, and prone to lengthy delays. This regulatory uncertainty not only hinders critical infrastructure and environmental restoration projects but also creates uncertainty for both regulators and regulated entities. Reforming CWA permitting processes is essential to ensure timely and transparent decisions that both protect water resources and support responsible economic development.

The *PERMIT Act* would codify longstanding exclusions from the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS), including those for ephemeral features, groundwater, prior converted cropland, and waste treatment systems. These exclusions have been consistently supported by every presidential administration—Democratic and Republican—since the early implementation of the CWA and reflect decades of bipartisan regulatory consensus. Codifying them will help establish a more predictable, durable, and transparent permitting framework under the CWA—now and into the future.

For these reasons, WAC strongly supports the *PERMIT Act*. This legislation will provide certainty for job-creating sectors across the economy, reduce permitting delays, and ensure consistent, science-based implementation of the CWA. We urge the Rules Committee and the House of Representatives to advance this important legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

Courtney Briggs, Chair
Waters Advocacy Coalition

American Exploration & Mining Association
American Exploration & Production Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Gas Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Public Power Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Leading Builders of America
ICSC
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Liquid Energy Pipeline Association
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Federation of Independent Business
National Mining Association
National Multifamily Housing Council
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
The Fertilizer Institute
USA Rice
U.S. Chamber of Commerce