Permitting Reform: Red Tape to Green Investment
Presentation to House New Democratic Caucus Staff Members

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About ITIF

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  - IT and data
  - Telecommunications
  - Trade and globalization
  - Climate Technology Innovation
- Formulates and promotes policy solutions that accelerate innovation and boost productivity to spur growth, opportunity, and progress
- World's top think tank for science and technology policy, according to the University of Pennsylvania's authoritative *Global Go To Think Tank* Index

Permitting Takeaways

- New technologies need a new permitting paradigm
- Discussion is moving towards the middle
- State experimentation can inform national permitting strategies
- Think beyond NEPA reform

The Permitting Dilemma

- Ambitious Climate Goals
- EJ Concerns
- NEPA as Magna Carta of Enviro. Movement
- Wind and Solar
- Transmission Lines
- Innovation in the Lab









- Energy Security and Costs
- Federalism Concerns
- NEPA leads to Endless Litigation
- All-of-the-Above Energy
- Oil and Gas Pipelines
- Innovation in the Private Sector

Permitting Recommendations…

1. Prioritize speedy federal review of major IIJA & IRA-funded projects and hubs
2. Fast-track Permitting for Nationally-Important CE Projects
3. New Federal Siting Authority at FERC (see SITE Act)
4. Develop and Speed Permitting for Specific Nationally Strategic Grid Corridors
5. Reprioritize Interconnection Standards from First-In to First-Ready
6. Clarify FERC's role in H2/CO2 pipeline sitting
7. Allow for programmatic rather than project-by-project review
8. Where States can Lead, let them Lead
9. Codify Presumptive Time limits for NEPA
10. Expand categorical exclusions and reform EIS/EA document process
11. Coordinated Agency Action Across Federal and State levels
12. Facilitate Project-led Review
13. Properly Fund Agency Review Efforts
14. Collect and Publish Data on NEPA Review and Permitting Process
15. ???

To Innovate We Need to Build, To Build We Need to Permit

- Permitting barriers limits technology learning, making transition more expensive, difficult and harder to predict
- Learning curves are huge part of technology, process, and financial innovation that drives down unit-costs and accelerates deployment

Resources

- ITIF, To Innovate, We Need to Build: Permitting Reform is Innovation Policy, September 23, 2022
- Brookings Institute, How does permitting for clean energy infrastructure work? , September 28, 2022.
- Progressive Policy Institute, Permitting Reform required for America's Clean Energy Transition, September 21, 2022.

Thank You!

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