



December 10, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
House Majority Leader
H-329 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer
House Majority Whip
H-107 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 3668, the Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act, and H.R. 3898, the PERMIT Act

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Scalise and Whip Emmer,

On behalf of INCOMPAS and our diverse membership consisting of competitive communications companies and AI-enabling infrastructure providers, I write to urge swift passage of H.R. 3668, the Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act, and H.R. 3898, the PERMIT Act. These bills address crucial areas that are holding back American competitiveness, including modernizing federal permitting and ensuring that America can meet its rapidly growing energy, manufacturing and AI infrastructure demands.

Right now, we have a rare bipartisan opening to fix this broken permitting system and send meaningful reform to President Trump's desk. The core problem is Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which has become a favorite weapon for obstructing interstate infrastructure. States have learned they can overregulate the water quality certification process to significantly stall or effectively kill projects, even if they fully protect water quality.

We have seen that these permitting delays are not about environmental protection anymore, rather it is about individual states having veto power over interstate commerce and national energy policy. Rep. Richard Hudson's H.R. 3668 fixes this by making FERC the lead federal agency and requiring actual coordination among agencies. It brings Section 401 reviews into the NEPA process where they belong, eliminates duplicative reviews, and ensures projects move on reasonable timelines while not weakening environmental protections.

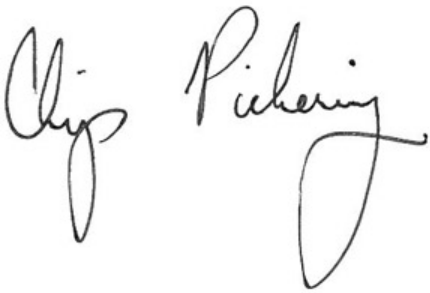
The Section 401 problem is not limited to a single source of energy infrastructure. From natural gas pipelines and hydroelectric projects to the transmission lines that connect them all, they each face the same regulatory gauntlet. Any project that touches federal or state waters can be held hostage by the certification process. The PERMIT Act establishes clear, predictable rules that reduce litigation risk across the board.

Our members include companies trying to build fiber networks, deploy data centers, and support advanced manufacturing and AI facilities. All of these projects need reliable, affordable power. Notably, when pipeline projects get canceled or delayed by years, the ripple effects hit everyone. Energy costs rise. Manufacturing expansions stall. Communities lose out on investment and jobs. This is especially apparent in underserved regions that don't have natural resource advantages. Our regions across America need access to affordable energy, but our permitting system prevents the necessary infrastructure from reaching them.

We have a chance to modernize a permitting system that everyone agrees is broken. H.R. 3668 and the PERMIT Act represent practical, bipartisan solutions that will reduce costs for consumers, create jobs, and help America compete globally. As you consider these bills on the House floor, INCOMPAS urges your support and welcomes the opportunity to work with you on their implementation.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Pickering". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Chip" is written with a large, looped 'C' and a small 'i'. The last name "Pickering" is written with a large, looped 'P' and a long, sweeping underline that extends under the entire name.

Chip Pickering

CEO, INCOMPAS – The Competitive Communications and AI Infrastructure Association