

Jay Timmons
President and CEO

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Capito and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the 13 million men and women who make things in America, the National Association of Manufacturers commends you for introducing the RESTART and SPUR Acts, commonsense bills that reform our out-of-date permitting laws and procedures. America's success and leadership in the world depend on a strong, competitive manufacturing industry, and permitting reform is essential for manufacturers in the U.S. to compete in a global economy.

We all agree that we need to manufacture more in America—an imperative amplified by the supply chain crisis that began during the pandemic. The bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act is just one example of how Congress can work together to bolster manufacturing competitiveness at this pivotal moment. However, some of the biggest obstacles preventing manufacturers and our economy from reaching our full potential are the permitting delays, red tape and complicated bureaucracy that have plagued us for decades. Permitting affects every aspect of our lives, from our economic security to our national security. If we fail to modernize existing processes, the U.S. is at risk of falling behind international competitors that are taking every possible step to incentivize manufacturing development.

The RESTART and SPUR Acts make progress on many shared priorities that were discussed at last week's Environment and Public Works Committee hearing. Manufacturers are particularly interested in consolidating the permitting process with a lead agency and enacting enforceable deadlines.

Permitting reform is not about cutting corners. It is about keeping up with the world around us. It is about ensuring that this country, a democracy rooted in free enterprise, is not outpaced or outflanked or overtaken by nations that do not share our values, that do not respect the environment or that do not recognize the dignity of human rights. The NAM stands ready to work with you and your colleagues to advance this legislation and other policies that strengthen our industry's ability to compete.

Sincerely,


Jay Timmons

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources