

**As Reported by the House Energy Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. C. R. No. 35**

**Representative Lear**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Hall, T., Johnson, King, Fischer, Mathews, A., Salvo,  
Thomas, D., Williams**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To urge Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting 1  
policies to accelerate deployment of new energy 2  
infrastructure. 3

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Ohio recognizes that abundant, resilient, and 4  
diversified domestic energy production in the United States 5  
enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, 6  
and energy independence; and 7

WHEREAS, The excessively complex federal permitting and 8  
environmental review processes that have built up around 9  
America's environmental laws, including the National 10  
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act 11  
(ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean 12  
Water Act (CWA), and dozens of other federal requirements, have 13  
grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or 14  
prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure 15  
and therefore discourage domestic energy production without 16  
advancing the laudable goals of these laws; and 17

WHEREAS, Energy is produced in the United States at a much 18

higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the 19  
countries from which energy is imported, so prevention of 20  
domestic energy production undermines the goals of those very 21  
same environmental laws; and 22

WHEREAS, Delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit 23  
the building of all of the essential components of a low-cost, 24  
reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to 25  
support economic competitiveness, to enhance reliability and 26  
prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, 27  
and to achieve many of the goals of America's environmental 28  
laws; and 29

WHEREAS, After more than a decade of flat electricity 30  
demand, demand for electricity in the United States is projected 31  
to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major 32  
increases in domestic energy production and a more than doubling 33  
of the domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and 34

WHEREAS, Regulatory barriers today mean that more than two 35  
thousand gigawatts of energy production and storage, more than 36  
the entire current American electricity capacity combined, are 37  
stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average 38  
amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly 39  
doubled from about two years to nearly four years; and 40

WHEREAS, The average time it takes to process an 41  
environmental impact statement under the National Environmental 42  
Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to 43  
an excessive length of four and one-half years; and 44

WHEREAS, The United States is highly reliant on China and 45  
other countries that do not share our interests to mine and 46  
process critical minerals, with demand for some of these 47  
minerals potentially growing by more than forty times by 2040; 48  
and 49

WHEREAS, Other developed nations that share our goals to 50  
protect the environment while producing abundant energy 51  
resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they 52  
can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly 53  
ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and 54

WHEREAS, Both linear infrastructure, such as pipelines and 55  
transmission lines, as well as energy generation infrastructure 56  
all face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to 57  
overlitigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important 58  
projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold 59  
those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court system to 60  
hamstring worthy projects; and 61

WHEREAS, Major delays in projects caused by inefficient 62  
permitting or overlitigation can dramatically increase costs and 63  
make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and 64  
taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and 65

WHEREAS, Unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays also 66  
increase American dependence on energy produced by foreign 67  
dictators and authoritarian regimes; and 68

WHEREAS, Unnecessary permitting delays limit investments 69  
made in modernizing our nation's infrastructure that would 70  
result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions 71  
and environmental impact; and 72

WHEREAS, Overlapping federal permitting requirements lack 73  
the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and 74  
intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human 75  
health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with 76  
decades-old regulation; and 77

WHEREAS, Failure to reform federal permitting laws is 78  
already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher 79  
prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for 80

the environment; and 81

WHEREAS, Failing to reform these laws in the coming months 82  
will result in even greater limitations on our energy 83  
infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising 84  
costs for consumers and businesses and leaving us vulnerable to 85  
unreliability, blackouts, and the resulting severe harm to the 86  
American people; now therefore be it 87

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 136th General 88  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge federal legislators to work 89  
in good faith to enact legislation that reforms federal 90  
permitting and environmental review processes to promote 91  
economic and environmental stewardship by expediting the 92  
deployment of modern energy infrastructure; and be it further 93

RESOLVED, That these reforms should enable faster and 94  
lower-cost construction of modern energy infrastructure of all 95  
kinds, without prejudice, including by considering steps to 96  
limit excessive use of judicial processes to slow projects 97  
inappropriately, prevent inappropriate usage of the Clean Water 98  
Act and other laws to hamstring the lawful building of linear 99  
energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines, 100  
enact reforms to plan, permit, and pay for the necessary build- 101  
out of regional and interregional electricity transmission 102  
infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that 103  
lowers costs for consumers and businesses, enable the domestic 104  
build-out of the full array of energy technologies essential to 105  
a modern system, including all affordable energy resources, and 106  
all other traditional and emerging sources needed to meet 107  
diverse energy demands; and be it further 108

RESOLVED, That these legislative reforms should also 109  
strive to ensure accountability for federal agencies conducting 110  
permitting and environmental review processes, including better 111  
data and more aggressive timelines for projects at all levels of 112

environmental review, whether environmental impact statements, 113  
environmental assessments, or categorically excluded projects 114  
under NEPA; and be it further 115

RESOLVED, That these legislative reforms must be 116  
accompanied by a redoubling of efforts to streamline federal 117  
regulations to support the efficient building of new energy 118  
infrastructure; and be it further 119

RESOLVED, That failure to act to update our federal 120  
permitting system to support building new energy infrastructure 121  
in a sustainable and effective manner will further harm 122  
consumers, workers, and businesses, while making our country 123  
less competitive and more vulnerable; and be it further 124

RESOLVED, That Congress must act with urgency in the coming 125  
months to fix our broken permitting system, and we are grateful 126  
to the members of Ohio's Congressional Delegation, including 127  
both United States Senators, for their support and 128  
prioritization of a federal permitting reform deal; and be it 129  
further 130

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 131  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 132  
President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker 133  
of the United States House of Representatives, and the members 134  
of Ohio's Congressional Delegation. 135