

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. C. R. No. 20

Senator Wilkin

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 SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 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 Senate transmit duly 131
authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro 132
Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United 133
States House of Representatives, and the members of Ohio's 134
Congressional Delegation. 135