

Senator Cornyn <SenateWebmail@cornyn.senate.gov>

3:05 PM (38 minutes ago) | March 24, 2026 | Email response to Carolyn M. Appleton

Dear Carolyn:

Thank you for contacting me regarding permitting reform and domestic energy production. I appreciate having the benefit of your comments on this important matter.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to review the environmental effects of energy projects and to publish an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA) before issuing construction permits. Completing an EIS does not guarantee project approval, but it is required for permitting decisions. Litigation often follows NEPA review, with lawsuits alleging improper documentation or inadequate assessments. Such litigation can delay projects for several years and cause developers to waste funds or abandon critical infrastructure projects, which are essential to meet our country's growing energy demand and strengthen our national security.

Streamlining the environmental review process and reducing government intervention are crucial to enhancing certainty for energy producers, which will increase domestic energy production, advance new energy technologies, and boost our economy. I support eliminating burdensome regulations that delay domestic energy infrastructure and believe environmental regulations must be based on the best science to avoid harming critical industries. Technological innovations in both traditional and alternative energy will help us meet environmental challenges. Ongoing reform efforts, such as the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act (H.R. 4776), would amend NEPA to accelerate permitting for infrastructure and energy projects. On December 18, 2025, the House of Representatives passed the SPEED Act by a bipartisan vote of 221 to 196 and the bill was sent to the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee for further review and consideration.

I also recognize the importance of preserving America's wildlife and public lands, in addition to improving our air and water quality. Through cooperation between federal and state governments, local communities, and private partnerships, we can preserve our environment while maintaining access to vital domestic natural resources. For these reasons, I support funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ecosystem restoration and coastal protection projects, and conservation programs at the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. I also voted for the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act

of 2026 (P.L. 119-37), which was signed into law on November 12, 2025, and contains funding for environmental protection.

I appreciate having the opportunity to represent Texas in the United States Senate, and I will continue to support policies that promote the development of our nation's energy resources, while protecting public health and the environment. Thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN

United States Senator

517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Tel: (202) 224-2934  
Fax: (202) 228-2856  
<http://www.cornyn.senate.gov>

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