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COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3601

October 7, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

I write to thank you for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed rule regarding Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and urge support for the promulgation of the rule.

Under the Trump Administration's leadership, our nation has become the number one oil and gas energy producer in the world, while continuing to improve our water quality. This proposed rule will help to ensure the continued success of the American energy sector by promoting timelier reviews of infrastructure projects, while also maintaining our environmental accomplishments.

As you know, Section 401 of the CWA gives States the authority to assess potential environmental impacts from federally permitted infrastructure projects that may affect navigable waters within their borders. However, the EPA's certification rules are inconsistent with the text of CWA and haven't been updated in almost 50 years, thereby leading to confusion and unnecessary delays for certain projects. Additionally, States have been able to seize upon the confusing nature of these inconsistencies and have utilized them to block infrastructure projects for political gain.

In an attempt to rectify this, and to allow the United States to fully realize the economic potential associated with the country's recent surpassing of production records set nearly five decades ago, President Trump recently proposed Executive Order 13868, "Promoting Energy Infrastructure and Economic Growth." This Executive Order will greatly help the United States to build infrastructure that is capable of safely and efficiently transporting these plentiful resources to end users.

The EPA's proposed rule will cement the effects of this Executive Order and will help our country's already flourishing economy to reach even greater levels of success by implementing several common-sense reforms to the CWA. These include clarifications of the timeline and scope of Section 401 of CWA certification reviews, increased transparency over the 401-certification process, and safeguards that States will adhere to the plain language of the CWA, all while ensuring that Americans continue to have clean water for drinking and recreation.

These reforms would give clarity in a time of need as, without these reforms, energy costs will rise, job growth will be hampered, the national energy market will be stifled, and the manufacturing advantages of the United States will erode. This Rule will help to re-establish the true goals of the CWA and will help American energy dominance to continue. In turn, this will allow families and businesses in States with energy constraints to access affordable and reliable domestic energy resources. As such, I support the EPA's proposed rule and urge you to promulgate this rule to ensure our nation's continued success.

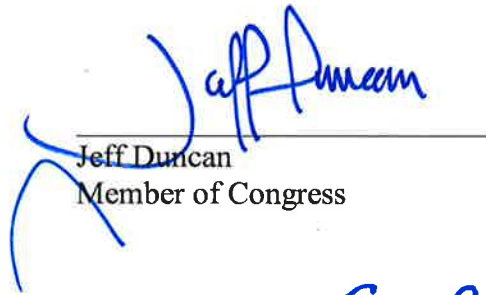
Thank you,



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



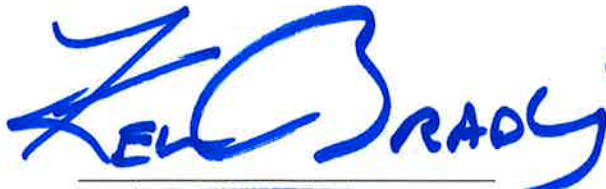
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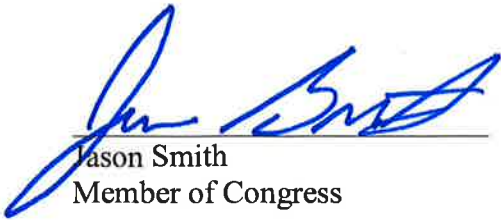
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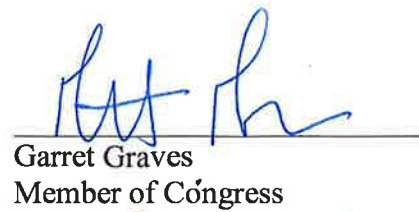
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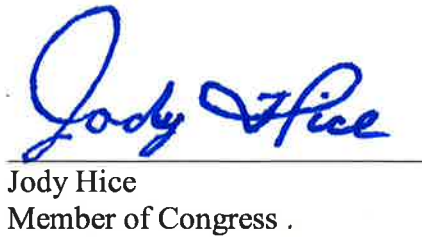
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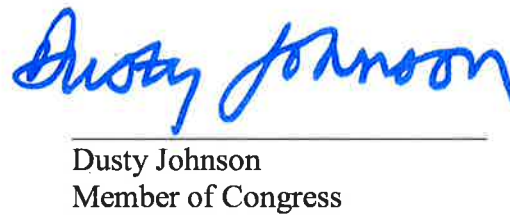
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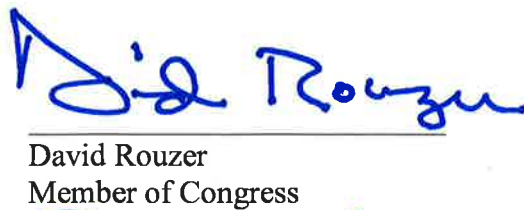
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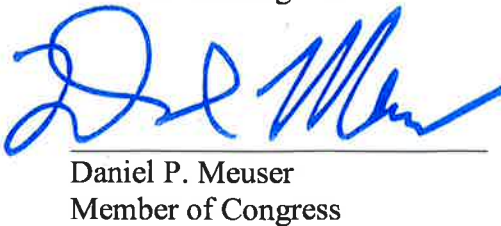
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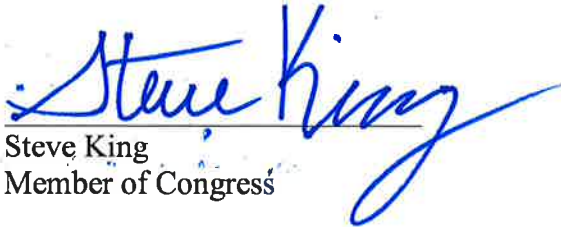
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