

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5509

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To modernize permitting systems at the Department of the
Interior, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Electronic Permitting
3 Modernization Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PERMIT ACCESSI-**
5 **BILITY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to improve the overall
7 economy, efficiency, and management of operations and
8 activities of the Department of the Interior (referred to
9 in this section as the “Department”), reduce paperwork,
10 and provide high-quality services and access to the public,
11 the Secretary of the Interior shall, to the extent prac-
12 ticable—

13 (1) design and deliver modernized electronic
14 permitting systems to accept, process, and record
15 applications (including plan submissions, payment
16 activity, and other related correspondence) for per-
17 mits, forms, and other paperwork required for activi-
18 ties regulated by the Department;

19 (2) provide a centralized electronic permitting
20 system online repository, available to the public on
21 the Department’s website, that includes—

22 (A) hyperlinks to facilitate navigation to
23 all Department electronic permitting systems;
24 and

25 (B) with respect to permits, the contact in-
26 formation for the appropriate Department em-

1 ployees providing assistance to State, Tribal,
2 and local governments; and

3 (3) provide to the Committee on Natural Re-
4 sources of the House of Representatives and the
5 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
6 Senate periodic updates on the implementation of
7 paragraphs (1) and (2).

8 (b) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION PROHIBITED.—
9 No information described in section 552(b) of title 5,
10 United States Code, or protected from disclosure by an-
11 other law of the United States shall be disclosed under
12 this Act.

13 (c) DUPLICATION OF SYSTEMS NOT PERMITTED.—
14 No system shall be duplicated under this Act.

15 (d) CONSULTATION.—In developing the permitting
16 systems required under section 2 of this Act, the Secretary
17 of the Interior shall consult with States, local govern-
18 ments, Indian Tribes and other stakeholders who apply
19 for agency permits and will use the permitting systems.

20 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO ENSURE CONSIST-**
21 **ENCY WITH THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**
22 **ACT OF 2023.**

23 In developing the permitting systems required under
24 section 2 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall
25 ensure that the Department's electronic permitting sys-

1 tems are consistent with the priorities identified in section
2 110 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
3 U.S.C. 4336d) with respect to any permit that requires
4 review under that Act.

Passed the House of Representatives September 24,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.