

EPERMIT ACT

DECEMBER 4, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 4503]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4503) to improve environmental reviews and authorizations through the use of interactive, digital, and cloud-based platforms, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “ePermit Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) coordination between Federal, State, and local agencies and project sponsors is critical to ensuring the timely and effective completion of environmental reviews and authorizations, including through the sharing of relevant information, alignment of environmental review timelines, and integration of authorizations, while maintaining compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements;

(2) digital strategies for environmental reviews have proven to make the community engagement process more accessible, available, and transparent to all stakeholders, especially the communities in which new projects are built;

(3) establishing robust data architectures will ensure data integrity, improve transparency, reduce costs, and enhance the ability of the Federal Government to serve the public;

(4) Federal agency use of modern software that can track the full lifecycle of environmental reviews and authorizations is critical for—

(A) effective project management and process improvement;

- (B) enabling workflow automation, transparency, and tracking; and
- (C) simplifying reporting requirements;
- (5) modern business process management systems that track Federal agency workflows and produce vendor neutral, interoperable event, task, and other milestone data that can be shared with other Federal agency systems can reduce costs and improve performance for Federal agencies responsible for environmental reviews and authorizations;
- (6) case and project management systems—
 - (A) are essential tools for managing the tasks and activities associated with environmental reviews and authorizations; and
 - (B) provide Federal agencies more data and insight into such environmental reviews and authorizations;
- (7) well-defined business rules can enable process automation that allows Federal agencies responsible for environmental reviews or authorizations to expedite routine tasks and workflows, and improve transparency and accuracy of project timeline estimates, which in turn can help project sponsors better plan for application preparation and project delivery milestones;
- (8) taking a standardized, digital-first perspective to environmental reviews and authorizations at Federal agencies responsible for environmental reviews or authorizations will improve document quality, lead to more concise reports, enable the reuse and accessibility of the data underpinning Federal agency analyses and decisions, and enable objective, technology-assisted evaluation of environmental impacts, analysis, and documentation, and accelerate future environmental reviews and authorizations;
- (9) Federal agencies responsible for environmental reviews or authorizations, project sponsors, and the public should have access to up-to-date information on accurate timelines and the status of environmental reviews and authorizations; and
- (10) allowing for seamless information exchange among Federal agencies and between Federal agencies and project sponsors will increase predictability and efficiency of environmental review and authorization schedules for project sponsors.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, the Chief Information Officers Council, the Office of Management and Budget, and other relevant stakeholders and Federal agencies, shall develop, publish, and iteratively update data standards for the collection and curation of authorization data by Federal agencies, which shall be used to—

- (1) assist with environmental reviews and authorizations;
- (2) organize, define, and standardize various concepts, formats, and protocols that are included in environmental reviews and authorizations; and
- (3) reduce the need for redundant environmental reviews by creating a shared vocabulary and software systems that will support vendor neutrality, data interoperability, workflow automation, and automatic data exchange between Federal agencies.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The data standards developed, published, and iteratively updated under subsection (a) shall include the following:

- (1) A standardized taxonomy that allows Federal agencies to identify and track data types, relationships, and values.
- (2) Comprehensive categories for data, such as—
 - (A) projects;
 - (B) processes;
 - (C) environmental documents;
 - (D) public comments;
 - (E) geospatial information;
 - (F) public engagement events, as applicable by process or Federal agency;
 - (G) case events; and
 - (H) milestones to ensure clarity and uniformity.

SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOTYPE TOOLS.

The Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, the Chief Information Officers Council, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and other relevant stakeholders and Federal agencies, shall design, test, and build prototype tools for environmental reviews and authorizations that will assist Federal agencies in implementing the minimum functional require-

ments described in section 5. The Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality shall prioritize designing, testing, and building tools under this section that—

- (1) support authorization case or project management systems that manage tasks, milestones, and activities associated with environmental reviews and authorizations, and provide Federal agencies more data and insight into such reviews and authorizations;
- (2) enable—
 - (A) application submission and tracking portals used by project sponsors, enabling greater transparency; and
 - (B) public comment opportunity tracking portals to increase transparency;
- (3) facilitate automated applications, environmental reviews, and authorizations;
- (4) allow data exchange between Federal agency systems; and
- (5) accelerate complex environmental reviews.

SEC. 5. PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DATA STANDARDS AND MINIMUM FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality shall publish guidance for how each Federal agency responsible for environmental reviews or authorizations implements—

- (1) the data standards published under section 3; and
- (2) the following minimum functional requirements:
 - (A) Application data sharing that enables automated transfer of relevant environmental review and authorization data among Federal agencies.
 - (B) Automated project screening to assist frontline staff with reviewing project sponsor provided information for completeness and accuracy and determining if a categorical exclusion or other general authorization applies to an action. Automated project screening may not be used by the Council on Environmental Quality or a Federal agency to unlawfully restrict any activities on Federal lands.
 - (C) Public availability of screening criteria and related decision models.
 - (D) Automated case or project management tools which include a repository of relevant data and metadata that enable advanced tracking, reporting, and optimization to aid workflows.
 - (E) Integrated geographic information system analysis tools which incorporate geospatial data layers and models for each resource analyzed as part of an environmental review or authorization for a given study area.
 - (F) Document management tools that preserve metadata associated with geospatial analysis, modeling, and other analytic processes conducted during an environmental review or authorization, to support future reviews and enable Artificial Intelligence-assisted analysis of past decisions.
 - (G) Automated comment compilation and analysis tools, including services for comment categorization and response that handle the lifecycle of comment submission, analysis, categorization and response with Artificial Intelligence support where appropriate.
 - (H) Administrative record management tools that maintain both portable document formats and data-rich repositories accessible to both machine and human users.
 - (I) Common or interoperable Federal agency services that integrate shared services, shared applications, and common user experiences for Federal agency staff, project sponsors, and the public.

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—The guidance published under this section shall include the following:

- (1) Guidelines for cloud-based storage, data sharing protocols, and application programming interfaces to enable the Council on Environmental Quality to work with Federal agencies to use authorization data to aid Federal agencies in modernizing their environmental reviews and authorizations and for iterative development of the authorization portal.
- (2) Provisions that support scalability and adaptability of the minimum requirements to emerging technologies.

SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF DATA STANDARDS AND MINIMUM FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The head of each Federal agency responsible for environmental reviews or authorizations shall—

- (1) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act—
 - (A) compare existing Federal agency systems for environmental reviews and authorizations under their authority with the data standards published

under section 3 and the minimum functional requirements described in section 5(a)(2) and report findings from such comparison to the Council on Environmental Quality;

(B) assess whether existing Federal agency technological capabilities are consistent with the data standards published under section 3 and the minimum functional requirements described in section 5(a)(2);

(C) submit to the Council on Environmental Quality a report that estimates the completion dates for implementing the data standards published under section 3 and the minimum functional requirements described in section 5(a)(2); and

(D) submit to the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality, an implementation plan that—

(i) describes how the Federal agency will implement the data standards published under section 3 and the minimum functional requirements described in section 5(a)(2); and

(ii) describes how, to the extent the Federal agency determines necessary to meet relevant statutory requirements, the Federal agency will adopt or implement the prototype tools tested, designed, and built under section 4; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, begin implementing the data standards published under section 3 and the minimum functional requirements described in section 5(a)(2).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not less frequently than twice each year, the Chief Information Officer of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer of each Federal agency, shall submit to the Council on Environmental Quality and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget a report on the progress of the Federal agency towards meeting the requirements of subsection (a).

SEC. 7. UNIFIED INTERAGENCY DATA SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **UNIFIED INTERAGENCY DATA SYSTEM.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the Chair of the Council of Environmental Quality and the head of each Federal agency responsible for environmental reviews or authorizations shall iteratively develop and maintain a unified interagency data system consisting of interconnected Federal agency systems and shared services for environmental reviews and authorizations.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION PORTAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The shared services developed and maintained under paragraph (1) shall include a common interactive, digital, cloud-based authorization portal, which shall—

(i) be designed in a manner consistent with—

(I) the recommendations of the Council on Environmental Quality included in the study submitted pursuant to section 110 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336d) titled “Council on Environmental Quality Report to Congress on the Potential for Online and Digital Technologies to Address Delays in Reviews and Improve Public Accessibility and Transparency under 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)”; and

(II) the minimum functional requirements described in section 5(a)(2);

(ii) serve as a platform for tracking and displaying real-time data on environmental reviews and authorizations made available through application programming interfaces or other reporting mechanisms from Federal agency systems that are compliant with the data standards and data architecture described in this Act;

(iii) be supported by a decentralized, cross-network digital infrastructure software that ensures vendor neutrality and interoperability of data and models across Federal agencies;

(iv) include a mechanism for the dissemination of relevant information (such as a notice of intent for public comment, public meetings, project statuses, or a notice of intent to begin an environmental review) to local communities, as applicable;

(v) allow a project sponsor to submit all necessary documentation for environmental reviews and authorizations in one unified and secure portal;

(vi) support interactive, digital, and cloud-based tools enabling applicants to edit documents and collaborate with relevant Federal agencies in real time;

(vii) support visual features, including video, animation, geographic information system displays, interactive maps, and three-dimensional renderings;

(viii) provide for the exchange of information to and from Federal agency data systems via an application programming interface or another reporting mechanisms;

(ix) allow for the submission of geospatial data associated with project location, footprint, and impact;

(x) support automatic documentation of submission and process timelines; and

(xi) allow the following metrics to be tracked over time—

(I) estimates of achieved efficiencies, such as reductions in the time between receipt of applications and final authorization decisions;

(II) comparisons of authorization timelines before and after the implementation of this Act;

(III) usage of the authorization portal and other statistics from the Digital Analytics Program;

(IV) metrics on the number of public comments received, responses provided, and community meetings held;

(V) the number of projects subject to litigation based on authorization deficiencies or inefficiencies;

(VI) a list of Federal agencies that are not yet fully compliant with the data standards published under section 3 and the minimum functional requirements described in section 5(a)(2), along with their progress toward compliance; and

(VII) examples or repositories of Federal agency-developed digital workflows enabled by the implementation of this Act, including visualizations of data sharing, authorizations and decision logic, and environmental reviews.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator of General Services shall host the authorization portal as a shared service for Congress, Federal agencies, and the public.

(C) ACCESSABILITY.—The authorization portal shall be accessible to Congress, Federal agencies, and the public, with appropriate safeguards to protect sensitive or classified information and information restricted by user type as appropriate.

(D) PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY.—To the extent practicable and consistent with other law, the authorization portal shall provide public access to non-sensitive data, including authorization timelines, location, project type, environmental reviews, and mitigation measures.

(E) CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS AND OVERSIGHT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The authorization portal shall provide Congress with direct access to aggregated performance data and other analytics to enable real-time oversight of Federal agencies.

(ii) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND TRAINING MATERIALS.—Congress shall have access to the data, fine-tuning procedures, and prompt configurations specifically created or adapted for Artificial Intelligence systems used to support environmental review or authorization activities, excluding proprietary or general pretraining materials unrelated to such agency-specific customization.

(iii) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Council on Environmental Quality shall provide to Congress technical assistance upon request to ensure effective use of the authorization portal and Artificial Intelligence systems for oversight purposes.

(3) CYBERSECURITY AND COMPLIANCE CONSIDERATIONS.—The authorization portal shall be designed to promote vendor neutral interoperability, reduce redundancy, and ensure compliance and coordination with other laws, including—

(A) section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act of 1974), and subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;

(B) the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program established under section 3608 of title 44, United States Code; and

(C) the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, for a case in which the project is in coordination with a Federal agency with stringent security requirements.

(b) DEADLINES.—

(1) SHARED SERVICES PILOT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Council on Environmental Quality shall oversee piloting

of shared services for environmental reviews and authorizations, including the authorization portal under subsection (a)(2).

(2) **UNIFIED SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—To the maximum extent practicable, not later than December 1, 2027, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality shall develop and implement the unified interagency data system required under subsection (a)(1).

(c) **REPORT.**—Not less frequently than annually, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, the Chief Information Officers Council, and other relevant stakeholders and Federal agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the Council on Environmental Quality’s progress on developing a unified interagency data system under subsection (a).

SEC. 8. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.

The Council on Environmental Quality may enter into contracts and other arrangements for analyses, services, and products with Federal agencies, private organizations, and businesses, and make such payments as determined necessary by the Council on Environmental Quality to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. CLARIFYING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Council on Environmental Quality or a Federal agency to impose additional regulatory processes or requirements beyond those expressly stipulated under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other law.

SEC. 10. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

To the extent that a data system, technology, or tool developed or incorporated into a unified interagency data system under this Act is not limited by project type, the data system, technology, or tool shall not have its use be restricted by project type.

SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The term “authorization” means any license, permit, approval, finding, determination, or other administrative decision issued by an agency and any interagency consultation that is required or authorized under Federal law in order to site, construct, reconstruct, or commence operations of a project administered by a Federal agency.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION DATA.**—The term “authorization data” means—

(A) any data relevant for a Federal agency to—

- (i) determine the effect on the environment of an action for which an authorization is required by the Federal agency; and
- (ii) determine whether to issue such authorization; and

(B) any community input or public comment on such determinations.

(3) **DATA ARCHITECTURE.**—The term “data architecture” means the design and organization of data systems, including frameworks for data storage, processing, and exchange.

(4) **DATA STANDARDS.**—The term “data standards” means agreed-upon specifications for data formats, structures, and definitions to ensure consistency and vendor neutral interoperability.

(5) **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**—The term “environmental review” means any Federal agency procedures or processes for—

(A) applying a categorical exclusion; or

(B) preparing an environmental assessment, an environmental impact statement, or another document required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(6) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal agency” has the meaning given the term “agency” in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(7) **FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT STEERING COUNCIL.**—The term “Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council” has the meaning given the term “Council” in section 41001 of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m).

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 4503 is to improve environmental reviews and authorizations through the use of interactive, digital, and cloud-based platforms, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 4503, the “ePermit Act,” sponsored by Representative Dusty Johnson (R–SD), establishes a government-wide technology strategy to improve federal permitting processes and timelines.

The current technology landscape for federal permitting is comprised of diverse, isolated systems, with many agencies lacking sufficient cybersecurity infrastructure and expertise. As a result, projects seeking federal environmental reviews and authorizations are often mired in antiquated paper-based processes, poor inter-agency coordination, and duplicative data submission requirements, resulting in lengthy and unpredictable delays.

To address these issues, on April 15, 2025, President Trump issued a memorandum titled “Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century.”¹ This memorandum prioritizes modernizing permitting technology across executive branch departments and establishes a Permitting Innovation Center under CEQ to design and test prototype permitting technologies.²

Following President Trump’s memorandum, on May 30, 2025, CEQ issued its groundbreaking Action Plan, which provides a government-wide strategy to optimize technology to evaluate environmental permits more effectively and efficiently.³ The Action Plan includes an initial NEPA permitting and data technology standard, minimum functional requirements for environmental review and permitting systems, agency implementation roadmaps, and a governance structure for agency adoption.⁴ This guidance sets the foundation for seamless information exchange between agencies, simplified interactions for applicants, and greater transparency and predictability on environmental review and permitting schedules for project sponsors and stakeholders.

The ePermit Act codifies key aspects of CEQ’s Action Plan, provides legislative direction on how federal agencies should implement electronic permitting systems, and clarifies CEQ’s authority to coordinate interagency permitting technology efforts. Additionally, the legislation directs CEQ and federal agencies to work towards establishing a “unified interagency data system” with shared digital services for environmental reviews and authorizations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 4503 was introduced on July 17, 2025, by Representative Dusty Johnson (R–SD). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On September 10, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on the bill. On November 20, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. Chairman Bruce Westerman (R–AR) offered an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Westerman_01 ANS. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute was agreed to by unani-

¹The White House, “Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century,” April 15, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/updating-permitting-technology-for-the-21st-century/>.

²Council on Environmental Quality, “Permitting Innovation Center,” <https://permitting.innovation.gov/>.

³The White House, “Trump Administration Launches Permitting Technology Action Plan,” May 30, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/05/trump-administration-launches-permitting-technology-action-plan/>.

⁴*Id.*

mous consent. The bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Committee on Natural Resources held on September 10, 2025.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

- Names the bill the “ePermit Act”.

Section 2. Findings

- States that seamless information exchange between agencies, robust data architectures, and federal agency use of modern software will increase predictability and efficiency of environmental reviews and authorizations.

Section 3. Establishment of data standards

- Requires CEQ, within 60 days of enactment, to consult with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC), the Chief Information Officers (CIO) Council, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and other relevant stakeholders and federal agencies, to develop, publish, and iteratively update data standards to assist with environmental reviews and authorizations.
- Stipulates that data standards developed by CEQ must include a standardized taxonomy that allows federal agencies to identify and track data types, relationships, and values, as well as comprehensive data categories.

Section 4. Development of prototype tools

- Instructs CEQ, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services Administration, FPISC, the CIO Council, OMB, and other relevant stakeholders and federal agencies, to design, test, and build prototype tools for environmental review and authorizations.
- Directs CEQ to prioritize building prototype tools that support case or management systems, enable application tracking portals, public comment opportunity tracking portals and automated permit applications, allow for data exchange between federal agency systems, and accelerate complex environmental reviews.

Section 5. Publication of guidance for implementation of data standards and minimum functional requirements

- Codifies minimum functional requirements for environmental review and authorization technology across federal agencies, including application data sharing, automated project screening, public availability of screening criteria, integrated geographic information system analysis tools, and public availability of screening criteria.
- Orders CEQ to publish guidance for how federal agencies will implement the data standards and minimum functional requirements within 120 days of enactment.

Section 6. Implementation of data standards and minimum functional requirements

- Requires, within 90 days of enactment, the head of each federal agency responsible for environmental reviews and authorizations to submit to CEQ an implementation plan that describes how the agency will incorporate CEQ’s data standards, minimum functional requirements, and prototype tools to existing systems.
- Directs the CIOs of each federal agency to submit, at least twice annually, to CEQ and OMB a report on their respective agencies’ progress towards implementing CEQ’s data standards, minimum functional requirements, and prototype tools.

Section 7. Unified interagency data system

- Orders CEQ and agency heads to iteratively develop and maintain a unified interagency data system with shared digital services for environmental reviews and authorizations.
- Sets requirements for an interactive, digital, cloud-based portal, such as allowing project sponsors to submit all necessary documents in one place, real-time collaboration with federal agencies, information exchange between agencies, data sharing with Congress, public access to non-sensitive data, and cybersecurity considerations.
- Allows Congressional access to aggregated performance data, analytics, and artificial intelligence data, fine-tuning procedures, and prompt configurations related to authorization portal activities for oversight purposes.
- Instructs CEQ to oversee piloting of shared services for environmental reviews and authorizations within one year of enactment.
- Requires CEQ, in consultation with FPISC, the CIO Council, and other relevant stakeholders and federal agencies, to submit annually to Congress a report on CEQ’s progress on developing a unified interagency data system.

Section 8. Authority to enter into contracts

- Provides CEQ with the authority to enter into contracts and other arrangements for analyses, services, and products with federal agencies, private organizations, and businesses.

Section 9. Clarifying rulemaking authority

- Stipulates that nothing in this Act gives CEQ or federal agencies the authority to impose additional regulatory processes or requirements beyond those expressly granted under NEPA or any other law.

Section 10. Savings clause

- Clarifies that a data system, technology, or tool developed or incorporated into the unified interagency data system under this Act shall not have its use restricted by project type, where applicable.

Section 11. Definitions

- Defines the terms “authorization”, “authorization data”, “data architecture”, “data standards”, “environmental review”, “federal

agency”, and “ Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council” under this Act.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to improve environmental reviews and authorizations through the use of interactive, digital, and cloud-based platforms, and for other purposes.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or

accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. 4503 would make no changes in existing law.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

The ePermit Act will help enhance and deploy technology to improve permitting across the federal government, but, equally importantly, it is an example of what can be accomplished with a bipartisan approach to problem-solving and good-faith negotiations. Republicans directed the Biden administration Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to study the possibility of improving digital tools for permitting, resulting in the 2024 CEQ Report to Congress on the Potential for Online and Digital Technologies to Address Delays in Reviews and Improve Public Accessibility and Transparency.¹ Representative Johnson of South Dakota and Representative Peters of California partnered to turn those Biden recommendations into legislation, and the Trump administration has helped finalize the bill with input from the Republican and Democratic committee staff.

That is the type of approach that leads to the development of truly durable permitting legislation.

JARED HUFFMAN,
Ranking Member.



¹ <https://ceq.doe.gov/ceq-reports/e-nepa-report-to-congress.html>.