

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Environment
“From Gridlock to Growth: Permitting Reform Under the Clean Air Act.”
September 16, 2025
As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairman Palmer, and thank you to our witnesses for joining us for today’s hearing continuing the Energy and Commerce Committee’s work on permitting reform under the Clean Air Act.

America’s job creators have been forced to confront burdensome and unworkable regulations that raise costs and create unnecessary barriers to growing their businesses.

Today’s panel of witnesses will testify about the need to pass common-sense Clean Air Act permitting reforms to reduce unreasonable regulatory burdens while continuing to protect our environment.

Protecting our environment and strengthening our economy are not mutually exclusive goals.

As we heard in our hearing in June on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, regulatory burdens from the Biden-Harris Administration cost nearly \$1.8 trillion dollars, and more than 70 percent of that cost was imposed by the EPA primarily from Clean Air Act rules.

Permitting requirements under the Clean Air Act are often cited as overly complex, time consuming, and costly. They also often serve as a disincentive to building new (or expanding existing) infrastructure and manufacturing, even if the project would be better for the environment.

Substantive permitting reform under the Clean Air Act is needed for the U.S. to strengthen domestic manufacturing, build critical infrastructure, meet growing energy needs, and win the AI race.

H.R. 161 introduced by Rep. Griffith and the four discussion drafts we will discuss today would make targeted changes to the Clean Air Act. They would not gut the Clean Air Act. Instead, they are the sort of common-sense solutions we need.

Our witnesses today will share their firsthand experience with the current regulatory system and the challenges they’ve encountered while trying to grow their businesses or strengthen their local economies.

This Committee has a unique opportunity to enact meaningful reforms in the permitting process. I’m eager to collaborate with members of this Committee as we consider legislation to achieve these necessary reforms.

I look forward to today’s discussion and yield back.