SWACCA

Signatory Wall and
Ceiling Contractors Alliance
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November 2, 2026

Hon. Shelley Moore Capito, Chair
Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
& Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Mike Lee, Chair
Hon. Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Natural
Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Capito, Chair Lee, Senator Whitehouse, and Senator Heinrich:

On behalf of the Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance (SWACCA), we write in strong support of S. 5653, the "Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act," and your joint efforts to modernize federal permitting. As an association representing construction employers working on infrastructure projects across the country, we appreciate this comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges and added costs imposed by existing federal permitting processes and related litigation.

SWACCA is a national trade association representing more than 400 union signatory wall and ceiling construction employers who perform commercial framing, drywall, and interior systems work nationwide. Our members are at the forefront of major infrastructure projects critical to enhancing America's domestic manufacturing capacity, and ensuring the U.S. remains a leader in advanced computing and artificial intelligence. Because of that, we have experienced the effects that prolonged delays in permitting new project starts have on our businesses and the thousands of union carpenters, laborers, drywall finishers, plasterers, and other skilled building trades professionals we employ. We have also experienced the significant added costs when sponsors are forced to abandon a viable, funded project because delays and uncertainty associated with obtaining the necessary permits and authorizations makes it unsustainable.

Taken as a whole, S. 5653 offers a balanced "all of the above" approach to infrastructure and energy development focused on creating predictability, efficiency, and accountability across federal permitting requirements that will benefit all manner of projects and all sources of energy production. We specifically support the bill's emphasis on greater project certainty, firm and enforceable timelines, coordinated interagency decision-making, and a more practical judicial review process. This combination of long overdue reforms will reduce unnecessary delays, lower costs, and lessen the risk of project cancellations. These improvements would give SWACCA contractors and their customers the confidence they need to make informed business decisions, commit to new investments, and create jobs that provide superior, family-sustaining wages and benefits.

On behalf of the membership of SWACCA, thank you again for your commitment to this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Shawn Burnum
President

Shawn Burnum | President
Performance Contracting Inc.
Lenexa, Kansas
Central Region

Dan Wies | Vice President
Wies Drywall and Construction Corp.
St. Louis, Missouri
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