


Permitting Reform: Unleashing Clean Energy Jobs and Investment

The U.S. solar industry's top priority for permitting reform is the speedy deployment of more transmission infrastructure that fairly distributes costs among everyone who benefits from it.



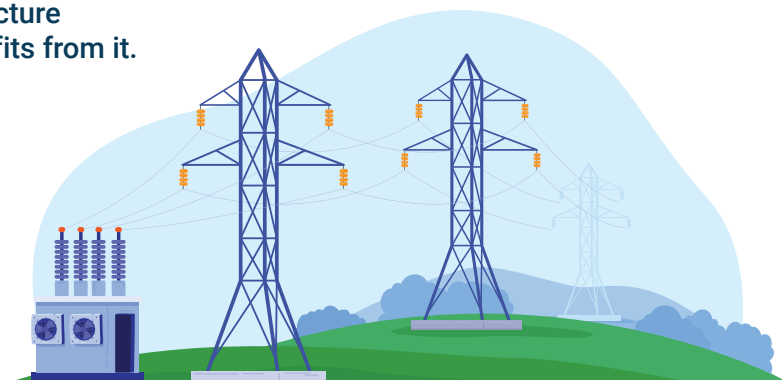
Lack of transmission is the #1 barrier to creating more jobs, revenue, and manufacturing in solar



It is also the #1 cause of interconnection delays, which increase costs for consumers and businesses



The TAP Act's NEPA exclusions for transmission upgrades and related activities are a good first step



Additional actions are needed to ensure the resiliency and reliability of the grid and create good-paying solar jobs:

- Put FERC siting authority for electric transmission on par with natural gas pipelines
- Direct FERC to adopt an interstate transmission planning rule that requires transmission providers to consider all relevant factors that affect the supply and demand of electricity, and limits the ability of a single state to veto a project
- Investment tax credits for interstate transmission and interconnection costs

Solar energy projects must have expanded access to federal lands

BLM currently administers a solar leasing program that can be unreasonably long, burdensome, and makes a small fraction of the total land available for other uses



The TAP Act's streamlining of right-of-way applications and term extensions is a good first step



Additional actions are needed to unlock American energy

- Establish specific legislative deadlines to process solar project applications and environmental reviews
- Eliminate "megawatt fees" and clearly define how rental rates and increases are determined
- Ease permitting process outside of BLM priority areas
- Fully fund and staff Renewable Energy Coordination Offices, including flexible hiring authority, similar to the oil and gas pilot office program
- Fund additional research into the pairing of solar with agriculture and grazing
- Empower state and local authorities to combat solar misinformation



Common-sense NEPA modifications are a shared concern for all infrastructure developers



The TAP Act's NEPA exclusions for energy storage retrofits, and the BUILDER Act's provisions on page limits, sponsor preparation, deadlines, and judicial review are good first steps



Guidance on reduced paperwork for projects that do not emit or sequester emissions should be codified

Permitting Projections for Renewable Energy Interconnection

