



**NATIONAL
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The Honorable Joe Manchin
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The Honorable John
Barrasso
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July 23, 2024

Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

As the representative of the full spectrum of our nation's offshore energy industry, and its more than 370,000 energy workers, the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) is pleased to express our strong support for the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024*. This vital legislation will serve to benefit all Americans by codifying annual leasing for offshore oil and gas and offshore wind, key judicial reforms for energy projects, and the resumption of permitting for U.S. LNG export projects. Most importantly, it represents a balanced, "all of the above" approach to energy policy that addresses current regulatory and legal gaps preventing the continued development of America's energy resources.

In February of this year, NOIA highlighted for the Committee the urgent need for bipartisan efforts to rectify the numerous flaws in the U.S. regulatory and permitting system. For decades, these flaws have unnecessarily restricted investment in domestic energy, stifled innovation, and delayed projects critical to the well-being of Americans. Without decisive policy action, America's energy, national, and economic security will continue to be characterized by needless uncertainty, jeopardizing investment in domestic projects and shifting manufacturing, jobs, and energy projection to other regions of the world.

By mandating the Department of the Interior hold one oil and gas lease sale and one offshore wind lease sale per year through 2029, this bill ensures the nation can continue developing our offshore energy resources in a responsible manner. This bill also mandates terms, stipulations, and acreage targets for lease sales that will ensure this Administration, and future Administrations, manage the nation's offshore energy resources reasonably and to the benefit of the American public.

Additionally, by establishing a 150-day statute of limitations for judicial reviews of agency decisions and requiring agencies to work within the timelines of the court on issues of remand, this legislation ensures timely resolution of the often-spurious legal challenges that slow down, reverse, and halt projects of all energy forms nationwide.

The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 will have far-reaching positive impacts and comes at a crucial moment for the U.S. and our allies. Inflation has severely impacted American households, and our adversaries are using energy as a geopolitical tool to fund conflicts that disrupt the global order. We appreciate the leadership of the Committee in advancing thoughtful policy that will position the United States to maintain its global competitiveness and provide the affordable and reliable energy resources that will drive our economy for decades.

NOIA and its members are available for follow-up questions or discussion, and we remain a resource for you and the Committee as this bill progresses through Congress and the amendment process.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Milito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and a long, sweeping tail.

Erik Milito
President,
National Ocean Industries Association