



PROTECT THE CONDITIONS OF OUR PROSPERITY

# Unleash Energy Abundance

**Access to affordable and abundant energy is the bedrock of American prosperity at home and a source of strength abroad. Energy abundance benefits U.S. consumers while offering a reliable supply source for our allies and partners, reducing dependence on global competitors and volatile regions. Eliminating burdensome energy regulations through permitting reform can unlock America's full economic and strategic potential.**

## THE ISSUE

Increasing energy production is a “top strategic priority” in the 2025 National Security Strategy because energy access supports overall U.S. national strength.<sup>1</sup> America’s economic and strategic clout will erode if energy producers are not empowered to meet demand at home and abroad, which is projected to rise for decades.<sup>2</sup>

Europe suffers from far higher energy costs and more unstable, blackout-prone power grids than the United States, harming consumers while crippling industry and defense production capacity.<sup>3</sup> To avoid this fate, Congress must overhaul American energy infrastructure approvals in order to build the capacity the country needs while reducing opportunities for unprincipled lawfare and excessive delay.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS

### REDUCE RISK THROUGH CLEARER DEFINITIONS

Congress should legally clarify key definitions in procedural laws like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including defining a “major federal action” in NEPA and providing more clarity about when higher levels of federal review should occur. This clarification could help reduce risk, lower compliance costs, and enable more businesses to plan and invest.

### ENSURE PROMPT, CONSISTENT, APPROPRIATE NEPA REVIEW

The average NEPA review takes four to five years and thousands of pages to comply with.<sup>4</sup> On top of this, federal agencies frequently take years to respond to permit requests. Congress should ensure NEPA reviews are reasonable and have predictable timelines for completion. To ensure strategically significant energy infrastructure such as pipelines are not unduly delayed, the Trump administration should continue to pursue Categorical Exclusions from full NEPA reviews.

### REDUCE CWA REVIEW WEAPONIZATION

Unclear language in the Clean Water Act (CWA) allows energy infrastructure reviews to be too easily weaponized. Congress should clarify the scope of state reviews in Sec. 401 of the CWA to prevent their abuse to delay nationally significant energy infrastructure. Congress should also properly scope “veto” authority under Sec. 404 of the CWA to ensure a unified federal voice on critical projects.

### CONSOLIDATED LNG APPROVALS

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is emerging as a leading grid-stable fuel of choice in U.S. and global markets. Unfortunately, multi-agency approvals for LNG transmission and export infrastructure bog down permitting, discouraging the investments required to build them. Congress should limit agency approvals for LNG infrastructure permitting to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for land-based projects and the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for projects at deepwater ports.

## CONTACT

Tyler Koteskey  
[Tkoteskey@cv4a.org](mailto:Tkoteskey@cv4a.org)  
Policy Director

Michael Nudo  
[Mnudo@cv4a.org](mailto:Mnudo@cv4a.org)  
Federal Legislative Liaison

Last Updated: January 2026

---

<sup>1</sup> [National Security Strategy of the United States of America](#), The White House, December 4, 2025. Pg. 14.

<sup>2</sup> [World Energy Outlook 2025](#), International Energy Agency, November 12, 2025

<sup>3</sup> See: “[Europe’s Electricity Prices Are Far Higher than Prices in the United States](#),” Institute for Energy Research, December 9, 2025; Tom Farless and Max Colchester, “Europe’s Green Energy Rush Slashed Emissions—and Crippled the Economy,” Wall Street Journal, December 1, 2025; Raúl Buenestado, “[The Iberian Peninsula Blackout – Causes, Consequences, and Challenges Ahead](#),” Baker Institute for Public Policy, May 2, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Bob Sternfels, Adi Kumar, and Brodie Boland, “[Unlocking US federal permitting: A sustainable growth imperative](#),” McKinsey & Company, July 28, 2025.