



June 24, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

The American Public Power Association (APPA) appreciates the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's efforts to review the permitting authorities under the Clean Water Act (CWA) through the draft legislation, Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act (H.R. 3898). Public power utilities face many CWA permitting considerations when developing energy infrastructure projects. The bill seeks to streamline the processes for applying for relevant permits for electric utility infrastructure.

APPA is the national trade organization representing the nation's 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. Public power utilities are in every state except Hawaii. They collectively serve over 55 million people in 49 states and five U.S. territories. Public power utilities are load-serving entities, with the primary goal of providing their communities with safe, reliable electric service at the lowest reasonable costs, consistent with good environmental stewardship. While public power utilities serve some of the nation's largest cities, nearly 1,600 of the 2,000 in operation serve rural communities.

We commend the committee for reaching out to stakeholders to seek their input on how to improve the CWA to promote the timely permitting of energy infrastructure projects while being protective of the environment. The legislation would codify the Environmental Protection Agency's long-implemented exclusion for water treatment systems from the regulatory definition of waters of the United States. The bill would also double the maximum period for reissuance of a Nationwide Permit (NWP) from five to ten years and clarify NWP requirements for linear infrastructure projects necessary for constructing transmission lines. APPA appreciates the committee's attention to these provisions as they would provide utilities with regulatory certainty to plan and maintain infrastructure effectively.

APPA thanks the committee for its engagement and looks forward to continuing dialogue on CWA permitting issues and other relevant federal policies that affect public power utilities and the electric utility industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Desmarie Waterhouse", followed by a long horizontal line.

Desmarie Waterhouse
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Communications & General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Mike Collins, Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment