The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and American Public Power Association (APPA), we write to express our strong support for the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 (BAAJA) and urge the House to enact this important legislation before the end of the 119th Congress. This legislation presents an important opportunity to reform the federal environmental permitting process, increasing reliability and reducing costs for electric utilities and the people they serve. APPA represents the interests of more than 2,000 community-owned, not-for-profit public power utilities that provide electricity to over 55 million Americans in 49 states and five U.S. territories. NRECA represents more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives serving 42 million Americans across 48 states. Our members' mission is to provide reliable, affordable electricity to the communities they serve.

Electric cooperatives and public power utilities face significant infrastructure investment needs as electricity demand grows. How efficiently these investments can be made matters directly to our customers. Lengthy, duplicative, and unpredictable permitting processes can increase project costs and delay needed infrastructure. As not-for-profit utilities, those increased costs are directly borne by the customers and communities we serve.

BAAJA represents a meaningful and balanced effort to improve the efficiency and predictability of federal permitting while preserving necessary environmental protections and opportunities for public engagement. The bill includes common-sense reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including greater clarity regarding agency responsibilities, more predictable review timelines, and a timelier framework for judicial review. The legislation also contains important improvements to Clean Water Act permitting, Endangered Species Act consultation, and National Historic Preservation Act reviews to promote better interagency coordination, reduce duplicative requirements, and establish clearer timelines for decision-making. These changes will help our members more efficiently construct, maintain, and modernize the infrastructure necessary to deliver reliable and affordable electric service.

Expanding and strengthening the nation's transmission system will also be critical to meeting future electricity needs and supporting our country's economic growth. The Senate-passed legislation finds the right balance of facilitating the construction of new transmission infrastructure while recognizing

the essential role of local governance and accountability built into our not-for-profit business models without adding new, burdensome Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulation over electric cooperatives and public power utilities.

At a time of rapidly growing electricity demand and significant infrastructure investment needs, Congress should be looking for every opportunity to reduce unnecessary costs for electricity consumers. By making federal permitting more efficient and predictable, BAAJA can help utilities build the infrastructure their communities need more quickly and cost-effectively. We strongly urge the House to pass this bipartisan legislation before the end of the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,





Jim Matheson
CEO
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Scott Corwin
President & Chief Executive Officer
American Public Power Association