



September 17, 2024

Senator Joe Manchin III, Chair  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Barrasso, Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

On behalf of Chamber of Progress – a tech industry coalition promoting technology’s progressive future – I write in support of the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (EPRA), which provides a pragmatic, bipartisan approach to modernizing the energy sector in ways that will lower the cost of energy for Americans and substantially benefit the environment.

### **Reducing costs for families and businesses**

One of the most pressing issues facing Americans today is the rising cost of living, and the EPRA can help reduce these pressures. Energy is a big cost component for families, comprising 7% of the Consumer Price Index.<sup>1</sup> By streamlining the permitting process for energy projects, EPRA will enable the faster deployment of new energy sources.

This will lead to increased supply of clean energy like wind and solar that have some of the lowest costs of energy generation, but require the new transmission capacity that will be enabled by the bill—some estimates show we will need another 100 to 120 million MW-miles of transmission to meet the forecasted surge in electricity demand.<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, by simplifying regulatory hurdles for permitting new projects and providing access to federal lands, EPRA reduces the costly delays that are often passed on to consumers, helping to alleviate the financial burden on working families. Compared to our current approach, inter-state coordination and transmission expansion could cut the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi.pdf>

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[https://cleanenergygrid.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ACEG\\_Planning-for-the-Future1.pdf](https://cleanenergygrid.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ACEG_Planning-for-the-Future1.pdf)

cost of delivering green energy by up to 46% and save American consumers up to \$47 billion annually.<sup>3</sup>

### **Protecting the environment while modernizing energy infrastructure**

EPRA strikes an important balance by expediting the approval of clean energy projects while maintaining rigorous environmental standards. Provisions in the bill to streamline the deployment of renewable energy projects and associated transmission, as well as geothermal energy, are essential for meeting our country's climate and energy independence goals. EPRA streamlines permitting without compromising environmental protections.

### **Growing the economy and meeting the demand for clean energy**

EPRA will also be a powerful driver of economic growth, particularly as energy demand rises. By promoting efficient permitting for a diverse range of energy sources, EPRA supports job creation across multiple sectors. Additionally, with the demand for clean energy steadily increasing, this bill enables the U.S. to remain competitive as we bring new technology centers and manufacturing facilities online.

In 2017, data centers needed nine gigawatts of electricity. By 2029, they are expected to need 32 gigawatts.<sup>4</sup>

We applaud the recent bipartisan committee passage of EPRA on a bipartisan and near-consensus basis. We look forward to supporting your efforts to advance the bill on the Senate floor and in the House.

Sincerely,



Adam Kovacevich  
Founder & CEO  
Chamber of Progress

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[https://www.vibrantcleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Future\\_cost-competitive\\_electricity\\_syst.pdf](https://www.vibrantcleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Future_cost-competitive_electricity_syst.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/03/07/ai-data-centers-power/>