



October 5, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chair
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Environment and Public Works
Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works
Committee
United States Senate

Re: Support for Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 (Permitting Reform)

Dear Senators Lee, Capito, Heinrich, and Whitehouse,

On behalf of more than 360,000 employees in the paint and coatings industry and the American Coatings Association (ACA), thank you for your diligent work to bring forward a bipartisan proposal for meaningful, durable permitting reform. ACA represents the manufacturers of paint and coatings products that are essential to commercial and industrial construction and contributes over \$52 billion to the U.S. GDP.

Permitting reform is one of the most effective steps Congress can take to unlock private investment and grow the American economy. When projects can move from 'approval' to 'groundbreaking' to 'painting' on a predictable schedule, companies build. That construction creates jobs, strengthens communities, and expands the nation's production capacity.

Faster, more predictable permitting turns planned investment into commercial and industrial construction. Today, major federal reviews routinely take years, and litigation can stall projects long after permits are issued. Every month of delay adds cost and risk; and capital that cannot be deployed here is often deployed overseas, disadvantaging American manufacturing.



Each new manufacturing plant, warehouse, distribution center, office, and production line represents economic activity that reaches far beyond the project site. Construction creates demand for highly skilled trades, including industrial painters, protective coatings applicators, surface preparation technicians, and certified coatings inspectors. Trained through registered apprenticeships and industry certification programs, these workers apply specialized coatings that protect steel, concrete, and equipment from corrosion and wear, extending the life of America's industrial assets for decades. Once built, these facilities employ workers for decades, pay local taxes, and anchor supplier networks across their regions.

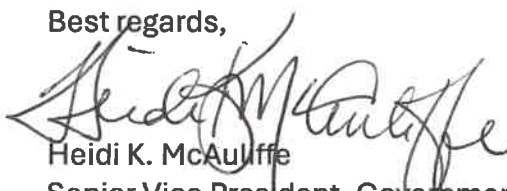
We particularly support provisions that:

- **Set firm timelines and page limits** for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews, with a single lead agency coordinating federal decisions;
- **Limit open-ended litigation** by shortening the statute of limitations for challenges and narrowing who may bring them;
- **Streamline air permitting** under the Clean Air Act so facility upgrades and expansions — including those that reduce emissions — are not delayed;
- **Provide certainty once a permit is issued**, protecting projects from retroactive revocation or shifting requirements; and
- **Improve agency capacity and transparency**, including online permit tracking and adequate staffing.

These reforms would maintain environmental protections while giving investors and builders the clarity they need to commit capital in the United States.

We are eager to work with you on potential improvements to the proposed text and work in a bipartisan way to send permitting reform to the President's desk this Congress. ACA stands ready to serve as a resource as you advance this legislation. Please contact me at hmcauliffe@paint.org with any questions.

Best regards,



Heidi K. McAuliffe
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
American Coatings Association, Inc.