Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
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The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Environment and Public Works Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs Capito, Lee, and Ranking Members Whitehouse and Heinrich:

On behalf of the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, I write in support of the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026. We appreciate the opportunity to share our views on this legislation that would facilitate infrastructure construction, energy production and transmission, domestic manufacturing, and economic growth.

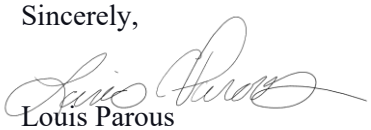
Founded in 1924, the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) is a technical institute and Standards Developing Organization (SDO) that stands as the authoritative resource for information related to steel reinforced concrete construction. CRSI members include manufacturers, fabricators, material suppliers, and placers of steel reinforcing bars and related products as well as professionals who are involved in the research, design, and construction of steel reinforced concrete. CRSI members employ approximately 15,000 people in steel production and rebar fabrication at over 450 locations in 47 states.

Businesses, like CRSI's members, require certainty to operate and invest, but our current environmental permitting system is flawed, frequently leading to delayed or obstructed projects. This legislation makes necessary changes to federal permitting processes that are essential to achieving the nation's infrastructure, energy, and domestic manufacturing goals, including:

- Improving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by settling clear deadlines for environmental reviews.
- Modernizing the Clean Water Act (CWA) by focusing water-quality reviews to direct environmental impacts and preventing retroactive rule changes.
- Establishing firm deadlines to legal challenges under the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, NEPA, and CWA to provide project certainty.
- Enhancing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's role in permitting to build transmission systems faster to utilize the United States' diverse energy resources.

These reforms ensure the timely and cost-effective construction of projects that the nation needs. We applaud the years of bipartisan work to improve the permitting process with these major reforms and urge the Senate to pass this legislation without delay.

Sincerely,



Louis Parous
President & CEO