

# Primary Ask for Joe Morelle for Permitting Reform Act'24

Last time we came with a CCL ask, I mentioned two pieces of legislation that will be crucial for the energy transition. One of the pieces was transmission, and we brought up the BIG WIRES ACT, which focussed on increasing interregional transmission capacity. We really appreciated your thoughtful questions about the BIG WIRES Act. Unfortunately, it didn't make it past the Energy subcommittee. The second piece was permitting reform. Currently, the U.S. expands its energy grid at only 1% annually—far below the 10% required to meet our climate goals.

Senators Manchin from West Virginia and Barrasso (from Wyoming) have presented the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. This bill addresses the permitting delays by setting hard, reasonable deadlines, streamlining the siting process, and reducing the judicial review period for new energy infrastructure. Additionally, it requires the Secretary of Interior to hold one offshore gas and one offshore wind lease sale per year. Finally, it also includes important aspects of the BIG WIRES Act requiring utility companies to showcase interregional reliability in transmission and allowing F.E.R.C. to provide utility compensation to communities that host transmission.

The best part of this bill is that I don't like all the provisions in it myself. Amongst the most hotly debated ones are the LNG exports. But I am also pragmatic enough to see that the net predicted outcome by policy modeling experts is a reduction in greenhouse gases. Today we are requesting you to consider this truly bipartisan bill and ask House leadership to include this bill into an end-of-year spending package. What are your thoughts on the bill's prospects for passage?