

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATOR MIZELL

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure.

1   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2       To memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact reforms to federal permitting

3                           policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure.

4               WHEREAS, Louisiana recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic

5       energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic

6       competitiveness, and energy independence; and

7               WHEREAS, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects

8       public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a

9       worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

10              WHEREAS, the exclusively complex federal permitting and environmental review

11       processes that have built up around America's environmental laws, including the National

12       Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National

13       Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and other federal requirements,

14       have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the

15       construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy

16       production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

17              WHEREAS, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental

18       standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so the

1 prevention of domestic energy production in the United States undermines environmental  
2 stewardship; and

3 WHEREAS, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of  
4 essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed  
5 to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and  
6 prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of  
7 America's environmental laws; and

8 WHEREAS, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, the demand for  
9 electricity in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades,  
10 requiring major increases in domestic energy production and more than doubling domestic  
11 electricity transmission grid capacity; and

12 WHEREAS, regulatory barriers today mean that more than 2,000 gigawatts of energy  
13 production and storage, more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined,  
14 are stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average amount of time to  
15 interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to four years;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement  
18 under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has  
19 risen to an excessive length of four and a half years; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do  
21 not share our interest to mine and process critical minerals, with demand for some of these  
22 minerals potentially growing more than forty times by 2040; and

23 WHEREAS, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment  
24 while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that  
25 they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often  
26 the case in the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, both linear infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines, as  
28 well as energy generation infrastructure, each face extraordinary and indefensible delays due  
29 to overlitigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative  
30 and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court

1 system to hamstring worthy projects; and

2 WHEREAS, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or  
3 overlitigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing  
4 consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays limit investments made  
7 in modernizing our nation's infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system  
8 with reduced emissions and environmental impacts; and

9 WHEREAS, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow  
10 for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting  
11 human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated  
12 regulations; and

13 WHEREAS, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer  
14 jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits  
15 for the environment; and

16 WHEREAS, failing to reform federal permitting laws in the coming months will  
17 result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American  
18 jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to  
19 unreliability, blackouts, and the resulting severe harm to American citizens.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes  
21 the Congress of the United States to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate  
22 deployment of new energy infrastructure.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
24 to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of  
25 Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States  
26 Congress.

