

For Immediate Release

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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

NARUC Urges Lawmakers to Streamline Federal Permitting Authority with No State Preemption

Letter Highlights Important Role of States in Permitting and Siting Projects

WASHINGTON (April 23, 2026) — The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has urged members of Congress not to support legislation that would preempt state permitting and siting authority for electric transmission projects.

In a letter to Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) and Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, NARUC offered extensive reasons and examples to underscore the important and necessary role of state regulators in the permitting and siting process. Namely, states are more efficient, as twice as many miles of electric transmission lines have been placed into service as compared to the number of miles of natural gas pipelines that have been permitted by their federal counterparts in recent years. Moreover, state regulators are better positioned to arbitrate and appreciate landowner issues that inevitably arise during the often controversial transmission siting process. Because of proximity and knowledge pertaining to each project, state, rather than federal, regulators can balance the competing interests of all parties.

“Our state members have demonstrated time and again that they are highly capable of overseeing permitting and siting within their boundaries,” said NARUC President, Commissioner Ann Rendahl, of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. “Preempting existing state authority would be a federal overreach, leading to a more cumbersome, protracted process. Permitting reform should be focused on how federal processes can be better streamlined to avoid delays in meeting the increased need to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy for American communities.”

Finally, the letter also offers assistance to federal lawmakers by providing feedback on proposed permitting legislation. NARUC and its members possess the in-house subject-matter experts to ensure that future permitting reform serves the public interest through energy projects that are built most efficiently.

NARUC’s letter is available online at <https://bit.ly/NARUCPermittingLetter>.

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC’s member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities.

NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.