

I write to express my support for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that was published by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) in the Federal Register on January 9, 2020.

When NEPA was signed into law in 1970, the original intent was to govern major federal actions. Unfortunately, it has devolved into a tool used by anti-development activists to slow down and stop federal permitting of necessary infrastructure and building projects. Specific to my industry, NEPA has been used as a regulatory weapon to slow down and, in some cases, stop altogether the extraction of oil and natural gas. As an independent producer, my livelihood depends on regulatory certainty in order to conduct important prospective business development plans.

Independent oil and gas producers support more than 4.5 million American jobs and fuel 2.8% of U.S. GDP. Those numbers are expected to rise in the coming years. The proposed NEPA changes would give independent producers more flexibility and certainty regarding the business decisions we need to make while continuing to be great environmental stewards of the land during production and beyond. Implementing a clear framework, designating lead agencies, and enforcing a page and time limit for NEPA documents will help me and my company be able to more accurately plan for future projects which, in turn, will ensure a healthy and thriving industry of independent oil and gas producers.