NUCA
REPRESENTING UTILITY & EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS

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October 8, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Committee on Environment & Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026

Dear Senators Capito, Lee, Whitehouse and Heinrich,

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) and the American utility construction industry strongly support the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 and commend you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation. This bipartisan bill provides needed reforms to the federal environmental review and permitting processes while maintaining environmental safeguards.

Utility contractors build and rehabilitate the nation's water, wastewater, electric, natural gas, and broadband infrastructure. Too often, critical projects are delayed for years by lengthy environmental reviews, overlapping agency requirements, and late-stage litigation. Those delays increase project costs, sideline skilled workers, and postpone essential infrastructure improvements for communities across America.

The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 would establish more predictable and accountable permitting processes through enforceable review timelines, greater permit certainty, and targeted reforms to Clean Water Act reviews, while preserving important environmental protections. The legislation is intended to provide certainty for permitted infrastructure projects and accelerate federal reviews for critical energy and infrastructure investments.

For utility contractors, predictable permitting means projects can move forward when engineering, financing, and workforce resources are ready, rather than remaining stalled by years of procedural uncertainty. These reforms will help reduce costs, support job creation, and accelerate the delivery of infrastructure that Americans depend on every day.

NUCA strongly supports this critical legislation, which will provide a faster, more reliable permitting process will strengthen America's infrastructure, support economic growth, and help deliver the modern utility systems that communities and businesses need to thrive.

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Sincerely yours,



Zachary Perconti

Chief Advocacy Officer

National Utility Contractors Association