

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

**H.R. 1083**  
**Dec 11, 2024**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION DRHR30527-LG-200

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Sponsors: Representative Pickett.

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Referred  
to:

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1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT MUCH  
2 NEEDED REFORMS TO FEDERAL PERMITTING POLICIES TO ACCELERATE  
3 DEPLOYMENT OF NEW ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE.

4 Whereas, North Carolina 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 worthy  
9 goal that is important to achieve; and

10 Whereas, the excessively 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 Historic  
13 Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and dozens of other federal requirements –  
14 have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction  
15 of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production  
16 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 prevention  
19 of domestic energy production undermines environmental stewardship; and

20 Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of all of the  
21 essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to  
22 support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and  
23 prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of  
24 America's environmental laws; and

25 Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, demand for electricity  
26 in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major  
27 increases in domestic energy production and a more than doubling of domestic electricity  
28 transmission grid capacity; and

29 Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than 2,000 gigawatts of energy  
30 production and storage – more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined –  
31 are stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average amount of time to interconnect  
32 new energy resources has nearly doubled from about 2 years to nearly 4 years; and

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



1           Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not  
2 share our interests to mine and process critical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals  
3 potentially growing by more than 40 times by 2040; and

4           Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment  
5 while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they  
6 can permit new mines within 2 to 3 years instead of nearly 10 years, as is often the case in the  
7 United States; and

8           Whereas, both linear infrastructure – such as pipelines and transmission lines – as  
9 well as energy generation infrastructure each face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to  
10 overlitigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and  
11 often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court system to  
12 hamstring worthy projects; and

13           Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or overlitigation  
14 can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and  
15 taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

16           Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays also increase American  
17 dependence on energy produced by foreign dictators and authoritarian regimes; and

18           Whereas, unnecessary permitting delays limit investments made in modernizing our  
19 nation's infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions  
20 and environmental impact; and

21           Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for  
22 efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human  
23 health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

24           Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs,  
25 reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the  
26 environment; and

27           Whereas, failing to reform these laws in the coming months will result in even greater  
28 limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for  
29 consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and the  
30 resulting severe harm to the American people; Now, therefore,

31 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

32           **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina House of Representatives urges federal legislators  
33 to work in good faith to enact legislation that reforms federal permitting and environmental  
34 review processes to promote economic and environmental stewardship by expediting the  
35 deployment of modern energy infrastructure.

36           **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives urges that these reforms should enable  
37 faster and lower cost construction of energy infrastructure of all kinds, without prejudice,  
38 including by considering steps to (i) limit excessive use of judicial processes to slow projects  
39 inappropriately, (ii) prevent inappropriate usage of the Clean Water Act and other laws to  
40 hamstring the lawful building of linear energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission  
41 lines, (iii) enact reforms to plan, permit, and pay for the necessary build-out of electricity  
42 transmission infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that lowers costs for consumers  
43 and businesses, and (iv) enable the domestic build-out of the full array of modern energy  
44 technologies, including nuclear, emissions management, hydrogen, critical mineral mining and  
45 processing, and all other needs for a modern energy system. These legislative reforms should  
46 also strive to ensure accountability for federal agencies conducting permitting and environmental  
47 review processes, including better data, more aggressive time lines, and permitting shot clocks,  
48 and these legislative reforms must be accompanied by a redoubling of efforts to streamline  
49 federal regulations to support the efficient building of new energy infrastructure.

50           **SECTION 3.** The House of Representatives believes that failure to act to update our  
51 federal permitting system to support building new energy infrastructure will further harm

1 consumers, workers, and businesses, while making the United States less competitive and more  
2 vulnerable to both foreign adversaries and domestic outages. Congress must act with urgency in  
3 the coming months to fix our broken permitting system.

4 **SECTION 4.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to North  
5 Carolina's congressional delegation.

6 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.