

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken
U.S. Secretary of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C Street, NW
Room 7226
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

As you are aware, the Secretary of State has been designated to receive all applications for the issuance or amendment of Presidential permits for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance, at the international boundaries of the United States for certain cross-border projects. The importance of these projects cannot be overstated in the context of North American energy security. Trade in energy commodities between Canada, Mexico, and the United States is an essential component to the security, economy, and sustainability of the continent.

Recently, Congress included language to expedite the Presidential permitting process for cross-border bridges in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. However, Presidential permitting for key pipeline projects has been largely unaddressed by the State Department and other parts of the Executive Branch with which it coordinates. Despite the current Administration initiating a modernization effort in 2021 to provide quick and consistent reviews, it is our understanding that only one Presidential permit has been issued since 2021. This departure from the Administration's stated goal has been detrimental to North American businesses investment and imperils future opportunities for our continent.

Given the significance of North American energy security to realizing United States foreign and domestic policy objectives, we ask that you respond to the following questions by January 30th, 2024:

1. Please provide a full complete listing of all pending Presidential permit applications for cross-border projects at the Canadian and Mexican borders.
2. What is the approximate wait time for approval of such permit applications?
3. Under current Administration policy, please describe the precise process for approval of such applications? What is the precise and respective role of U.S. Department of State, the National Security Council staff (including the Office of the National Security Advisor), and other component parts of the Executive Office of the President in this process?
4. Is the Administration still working on a revised process and, if so, when will it be finalized?
5. Energy security should be a priority for the United States. This includes the necessity of shortening and stabilizing supply chains for energy and critical minerals. Predictability for Presidential permit approval seems to be a critical step in realizing this objective. What steps has your Administration taken to ensure that such predictability is restored to this relatively straightforward administrative task?

We look forward to your prompt response to these questions. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff if you need further clarification.

Sincerely,



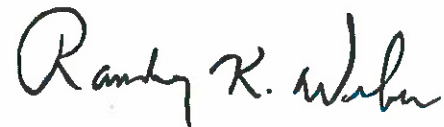
Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



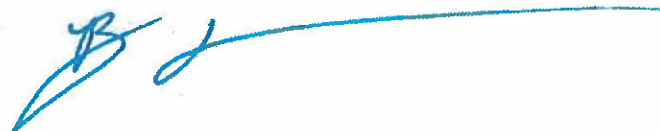
Randy Jackson
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Wesley Hunt
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Rouzer". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large 'D' and 'R'.

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Roy". The letters are cursive, with a large 'C' and 'R'.

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Luttrell". The letters are cursive, with a large 'M' and 'L'.

Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress