The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Lee, Heinrich, Capito, and Whitehouse:

On behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and American Public Power Association (APPA), we write to express our strong support for the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 (BAAJA) and urge Congress to enact this important legislation before the end of the 119th Congress.

APPA represents the interests of more than 2,000 community-owned, not-for-profit public power utilities that provide electricity to over 55 million Americans in 49 states and five U.S. territories. NRECA represents more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives serving 42 million Americans across 48 states. Our members' mission is to provide reliable, affordable electricity to the communities they serve.

As electricity demand continues to grow, electric cooperatives and public power utilities must make substantial investments in generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. Maintaining grid reliability, improving resilience against extreme weather events, and replacing aging infrastructure are essential to our country's well-being in the coming years. Unfortunately, lengthy, duplicative, and unpredictable federal permitting processes often delay critical projects, increase costs, and create uncertainty that ultimately falls on the consumers and businesses our members serve.

BAAJA represents a meaningful and balanced effort to address these challenges. The legislation would improve the efficiency and predictability of federal permitting while preserving necessary environmental protections and opportunities for public engagement. The bill includes common-sense reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including greater clarity regarding agency responsibilities, more predictable review timelines, and a timelier framework for judicial

review. The legislation also contains important improvements to Clean Water Act permitting, Endangered Species Act consultation, and National Historic Preservation Act reviews to promote better interagency coordination, reduce duplicative requirements, and establish clearer timelines for decision-making. These changes will help our members more efficiently construct, maintain, and modernize the infrastructure necessary to deliver reliable and affordable electric service.

We also appreciate you working with us to find common ground on language that will facilitate the development of needed transmission infrastructure. Expanding and strengthening the nation's transmission system will be critical to meeting future electricity needs and supporting our country's economic growth. Our continued support for the bill is contingent upon an important technical change included in the manager's amendment, which recognizes the essential role of local governance and accountability built into our not-for-profit business models and avoids new, burdensome Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulation over electric cooperatives and public power utilities.

By providing greater certainty in federal environmental permitting processes, we believe BAAJA will support the electric infrastructure investments needed to meet America's growing energy demands. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and strongly urge Congress to pass the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act.

Sincerely,





Jim Matheson
CEO
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Scott Corwin
President & Chief Executive Officer
American Public Power Association