THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

November 16, 2026

Dear Members of the New England Congressional Delegation:

I write to you today on behalf of the New England Council regarding S. 5653, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA). The New England Council and its members have tracked legislative efforts to address permitting reform over the years and is strong agreement among our stakeholders that this legislation would be very beneficial to the region.

As you know, the New England Council is a non-partisan alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England. Our mission is to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the region. Given New England's high energy costs, an aging transmission grid, and the region's substantial stake in offshore wind and other next-generation infrastructure, the Council has followed this legislation's progress closely.

Earlier this year, the New England Council convened its membership and established a shared set of regional principles for federal energy permitting reform. Those principles call for streamlined interagency review, technology-neutral treatment of energy projects, predictable and time-limited regulatory review, stable and vested permit rights, ratepayer affordability grounded in cost-causation, and environmental integrity paired with state and local coordination. We have enclosed a copy of these principles for your reference.

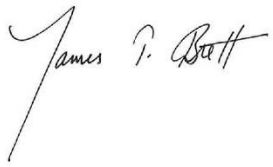
While the BAAJA addressed nearly all the principles outlined by the New England Council, we wanted to raise various environmental concerns associated with this legislation. Specifically, Title III of the bill would shorten interagency consultation windows under the Endangered Species Act, which could limit the time available to complete adequate scientific review. Its new definition of "best scientific data available" moves away from established science-based thresholds.

The New England Council views BAAJA as a landmark piece of legislation for permitting reform that could have immediate impacts on energy affordability across the region. We encourage you and your colleagues to refine the bill through the amendment process and support final passage of the legislation.

If you have any questions or require additional background, please feel free to contact our Director of Federal Affairs, Sean Malone, at smalone@newenglandcouncil.com.

Sincerely,

The New England Council
98 North Washington Street, Suite 301 • Boston, Massachusetts 02114 • (617) 723-4009
1411 K Street, NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20005 • (202) 547-0048
www.newenglandcouncil.com



James T. Brett
President & CEO
The New England Council