

# CLEARPATH

## Rollback of permitting reforms will harm Admin's own clean energy agenda

**Washington, DC – Tuesday, April 26, 2022** – Last week, the Biden Administration reversed a 2020 Trump Administration effort to modernize federal permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which had been the first major update to the law in 40 years. The 1970 law requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impact of major projects, and the changes from the previous Administration were designed to produce more efficient reviews and more timely decisions, setting a two-year goal for completing reviews while upholding America's strong environmental safeguards.

Despite the Biden Administration's reversal, there has been a steady drumbeat of calls to modernize permitting.

### **In Case You Missed It...**

- ClearPath's Alex Fitzsimmons wrote in the **Washington Examiner** on April 25, 2022, [Biden rollback of Trump-era permitting reforms will harm his own clean energy agenda](#)
  - *"Unfortunately, good policy in the 1970s has not kept pace with the times. The NEPA process today often means federal permitting can take five to 10 years and cost millions of dollars. This undermines our ability to build more clean energy rapidly to reduce emissions, grow the economy, and reduce dependence on foreign energy."*
- The **Bloomberg Editorial Board** wrote on April 21, 2022, "[Want Green Energy? Cut Red Tape](#)"
  - *"Burdensome regulations are impeding clean-energy projects nationwide. The U.S. won't reach its climate goals unless that changes."*
- Ezra Klein wrote in a March 13, 2022 column in the **New York Times**, "[Government Is Flailing, in Part Because Liberals Hobbled It](#)"
  - *"But even if President Biden could pass his climate agenda through Congress, the green infrastructure he imagines could still be blocked by obstacles liberals have constructed."*

- ClearPath's Rich Powell wrote for **Scientific American**, on February 28, 2022, "[Three Fixes to Build Energy Projects Cleaner and Faster](#)"
  - *"Fast track minimal impact projects...Speed reviews of essential protections....Limit legal action to under one year."*
- **The House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans** also released a number of proposals as part of Earth Day, April 22, 2022, as part of their [Securing Cleaner American Energy](#) agenda, which includes a number of bills on permitting improvements.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## **ABOUT CLEARPATH**

ClearPath (501(c)(3)) was established by businessman Jay Faison in 2014. ClearPath's mission is to develop and advance policies that accelerate breakthrough innovations that reduce emissions in the energy and industrial sectors. To advance that mission, we develop cutting-edge policy solutions on clean energy and industrial innovation. An entrepreneurial, strategic nonprofit, ClearPath (501(c)(3)) collaborates with public and private sector stakeholders on innovations in nuclear energy, carbon capture, hydropower, natural gas, geothermal, energy storage, and heavy industry to enable private-sector deployment of critical technologies. Learn more at [clearpath.org](http://clearpath.org). Follow us on Twitter: @powellrich, @ClearPathAction