

## Rep. Gosar Introduces the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Data Transparency and Accountability Act

July 29, 2021, WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04) introduced the NEPA Data Transparency and Accountability Act, a bill that would empower Americans to see and understand the full bureaucratic costs of NEPA by requiring each federal agency to report to Congress on its NEPA activity every year.

“NEPA was designed to be a good-government checklist to review and analyze the permitting and approval processes at federal agencies. However, over the last 50 years, it has become weaponized by those who oppose projects and want to stop economic development. Endless delays and lawsuits are used to prevent infrastructure projects and job creation throughout the country,” Rep. Gosar said. “By requiring clear transparency, this bill will allow Americans to analyze the costs of our expensive and burdensome NEPA system.”

Enacted in 1970, NEPA was designed to ensure federal agencies were analyzing the environmental consequences for proposed federal actions or projects. Over the past 50 years its process has substantially deviated from its original purpose and goals, evolving into an increasingly complex, bureaucratic process that has dramatically increased the cost and timeline to complete projects. Some studies put the average delay from NEPA alone at over five years per project.

The NEPA Data Transparency and Accountability Act would:

- Require each Federal agency to annually report to Congress: (1) the number of categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements issued in the last fiscal year, (2) the time it took to approve such proposed actions, and (3) the number of proposed actions that are under NEPA review as of the date the report is issued.
- Require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to jointly develop a methodology to assess the comprehensive costs of the NEPA process and require each federal agency to adopt that methodology and report (1) the comprehensive cost of the NEPA process for each proposed action completed within the reporting period, and (2) for pending NEPA actions, the amount of money currently expended for the project and the estimated future costs to complete the analysis.

You can read the full text [here](#).