



Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

September 25, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 348, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act, introduced by Representative Tom Marino (R-PA).

Manufacturers in the United States rely on a robust infrastructure to efficiently transport materials and finished goods, and to access crucial water and energy resources. Inefficiencies, overlapping agency authority, lengthy litigation, exhausting environmental review processes, and general bureaucratic red tape is holding up the modernization of our critical infrastructure and negatively impacting growth opportunities. Meanwhile, foreign competitors continue to ramp up investments in infrastructure as we struggle to maintain our aging infrastructure. As a result, manufacturers in the United States are placed at a competitive disadvantage in the global economy.

The RAPID Act would improve and accelerate the environmental permitting process for infrastructure projects through commonsense changes such as making consecutive environmental reviews become a simultaneous process, increasing cooperation among federal agencies, and setting reasonable timelines for parties to file comments and legal challenges. Additionally, H.R. 348 would expand successful reform policies approved as part of past transportation bills to all federal agencies.

As manufacturers, our ability to move parts from suppliers to our factories – and finished goods from our factories to customers – relies on the highways, railways, aviation and seaports of America. Government-imposed inefficiencies are restricting our ability to modernize infrastructure, expand the economy and create jobs. The RAPID Act would help to improve that broken system.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes for H.R. 348, including procedural votes, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 114th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aric Newhouse'.

Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote