

# A modernized NEPA will protect the environment, unlock investment, and create jobs.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations are in critical need of modernization. Last revised in the late 1970's, NEPA was intended to protect the environment. In recent years, however, some have misused the law to block infrastructure development and investments in key projects. **Updating NEPA will reduce delays hindering critical projects, resulting in better infrastructure, a stronger economy, and continued environmental stewardship. Modernizing NEPA is the key to unlocking investment.**

## Infrastructure and the Economy

In 2017, the Society of Civil Engineers gave U.S. infrastructure a D+,<sup>1</sup> highlighting the need for critical repairs of roads, bridges, airports, railways, environmental protection structures and much more.

A modernized NEPA will increase infrastructure investment and project development, spurring economic growth by:

- Creating new jobs in the infrastructure sector – airways, waterways, and roadways.
- Increasing tax revenue in local communities.
- Reducing the need for long-term, costly upkeep and repairs to deteriorating infrastructure.

**\$1 Billion** = **13,000 jobs**<sup>2</sup>  
Spent on Infrastructure



## Infrastructure and the Environment

Investment in modern, efficient infrastructure is key to accomplishing the goal of being good environmental stewards by:

- Increasing transportation and distribution system efficiency.
- Reducing emissions through investment in renewable energy sources and transmission infrastructure.
- Implementing conservation projects that can better mitigate environmental impacts in a timely manner.

## Updated NEPA=



Environmental  
Stewardship



Congestion



Renewable  
Investment

## Sample of Delayed Projects

As technology has dramatically advanced over the 40 years since NEPA regulations were meaningfully updated, timelines in environmental review and permitting should be updated to reflect modern technologies and growing demand. Delays of up to 20 years are not acceptable.

### Taos Regional Airport Improvements



An expansion project that would increase planes based in Taos by **75 percent** and increase runway accessibility **5 percent**, to improve safety and pilot confidence.

Delayed: **20.4 Years**  
Investment: **\$25 million**

### Vineyard Wind Project



An offshore wind farm, part of larger project to spur **\$70B** in the wind energy sector with enough capacity to power **400,000 homes**.

Delayed: **2 Years + (Ongoing)**  
Potential Investment: **\$2.8B**

### Grand Haven Traffic Congestion Improvement



A two-lane roadway and bridge project that will mitigate traffic build-up by providing a route for an additional **15,000 to 20,000 vehicles daily**.

Delayed: **16 Years**  
Investment: **\$170 Million**

1. Society of Civil Engineers, 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

2. The Brookings Institution, "Expanding opportunity through infrastructure jobs," May 7, 2015. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/expanding-opportunity-through-infrastructure-jobs/>