



Jay Timmons
Executive Vice President

February 5, 2009

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support the Barrasso Amendment (S.A. 326) to H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

An August 2007 report by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials estimated that the current average time to complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for a major transportation project is 60 months, or five years. The Barrasso Amendment would streamline the NEPA review process by providing a deadline of 270 days from the date of enactment of the Act for completion of all NEPA reviews for projects within H.R. 1.

The NAM supports the purpose and intent of NEPA, which has remained largely unchanged since 1970, and we do not take changes to NEPA lightly. However, we believe the Barrasso Amendment is not only sensible but appropriate. It would inject a level of certainty and predictability into a process that has typically been characterized by delays and cost overruns.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on the Barrasso Amendment (SA 326), including potential procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 111th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Timmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J".

Jay Timmons

JT/tl

Manufacturing Makes America Strong