

U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop  
(1933-2011) • *Founder*



George C. Landrith  
*President & CEO*

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Frontiers of Freedom released the following statement by its president, George Landrith, in support of the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act (H.R. 161):

We strongly support the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. This important reform will ensure that our natural gas pipeline infrastructure keeps up with the demand for natural gas, a clean and plentiful form of energy.

As things stand now with current law, the permitting process for a new pipeline is ridiculously unclear, unfairly arbitrary and insanely complicated. Moreover, with so many agencies and government entities with a finger in the pie, the results are entirely unsatisfactory. There are no standards for timetables so one agency can drag its feet and grind the entire process to a halt. As a result, bureaucratic red tape often paralyzes the process and the merits of the matter are lost.

But the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act would fix these shortcomings by reforming, clarifying, regularizing, and simplifying the permitting process. Giving government agencies reasonable time limits to complete their analysis is a huge improvement in the process. It is critical that government decisions are made in a timely fashion and that government cannot simply study and analyze a proposed pipeline to death without ever completing its required review. This bill would not require that even one natural gas pipeline is approved -- they will be evaluated on their own merits -- but the bill would provide reasonable timeframes for reviewing permits and would provide regulatory certainty in the review process. This benefits everyone and makes sure that the environment is protected.

The U.S. has an abundance of natural gas and we need to make sure that the process for updating our pipeline infrastructure makes sense and serves the nation's best interests. H.R. 161 is important because it will insure that our gas pipeline infrastructure is safe, environmentally sound, and economically adequate. It will also create jobs directly, by creating high paying jobs building and maintaining natural gas pipelines — and indirectly, by lowering energy costs to the entire nation which will spur economic growth and job creation in virtually every economic sector.

For these reasons and many others, we strongly support H.R. 161 and we applaud the committee for its leadership on this important issue.