American Iron and Steel Institute

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

November 9, 2026

To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Senate staff assigned to steel, environment and/or energy issues

SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN AMERICAN AFFORDABILITY AND JOBS ACT OF 2026 (S. 5653)

Background: The United States, as the world's largest economy, needs more energy. From natural gas to solar to nuclear and wind, our nation has the means for energy independence – with the potential to provide affordable and reliable power to consumers and manufacturers alike. Unfortunately, the current permitting system's bottlenecks prevent the timely and efficient delivery of much-needed energy – negatively impacting American steel producers and the overall economy.

Situation: The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA) is comprehensive permitting reform legislation that will modernize the existing environmental review and judicial processes that inject uncertainty and delay key investments for steel and steel-consuming industries. Among other items, the legislation will help expand the supply of energy for steel producers as well as facilitate growth in other major industries like construction, infrastructure and energy.

Reforming the current permitting system supports responsible American energy production and consumption. According to Employ America, "these reforms could add up to 105,600 industrial jobs in manufacturing, mining, and construction through 2040."

In addition, this legislation will address challenges related to computational large-load electricity users like data centers, while ensuring that steel producers can continue investing in American manufacturing and job creation. In fact, BAAJA provides real ratepayer protections, as electricity market expert Grid Strategies estimates that the bill will require data centers to pay an additional $55 billion in transmission charges – saving money for ratepayers.

Request: The American Iron and Steel Institute asks that Senators support the BAAJA when it is considered on the Senate floor. Passage of this comprehensive permitting reform legislation will facilitate the continued growth and global leadership of the American steel industry, while providing steel-using sectors with the certainty needed to promote additional investment in manufacturing and job creation.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO