

# House Energy & Commerce Committee



Republicans

## Encouraging New Refineries

[Link to bill](#)

New domestic refinery development has stalled. While some plants have expanded, no new refineries have been built in the past 30 years. Refined product imports are rising. A key barrier to new plant development, including coal-to-liquid and biofuel energy projects, is the complexity of permitting and the resulting regulatory uncertainty. This bill addresses that problem.

### *Streamline permit processing while preserving environmental protections*

- Eliminate needless delay caused by agency foot-dragging or simply acting in sequence when parallel action makes more sense.
- The bill directs the president to appoint a federal coordinator to manage the multi-agency permitting process.
- The coordinator will work with the affected governor to identify and convene all agencies (state and federal) to coordinate the schedules for action so that no regulations are bypassed and public input is preserved, but the project can proceed quickly.
- The Environmental Protection Agency is given priority in the scheduling coordination to ensure that environmental processes (Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, RCRA, and others) are given deference.
- Permits not involving federal law are not covered by the legislation.

### *Keeping on track*

- Once the consolidated schedule is set, the federal coordinator manages it by monitoring progress and helping agencies work together to meet agreed deadlines.
- The streamlined process does not get activated unless the governor or tribal leader where the refinery would be built signs off.

### *Closed military bases are possible refinery sites*

- The president is directed to identify at least three closed bases as suitable sites for new refineries. The redevelopment authority for each closed base is not required to accept the suggestion.
- At least one site must be designated for biofuel refining.