

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3767

To require the Council on Environmental Quality to submit to Congress a report on the potential for online and digital technologies to address delays in reviews and improve public accessibility and transparency under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 31, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Council on Environmental Quality to submit to Congress a report on the potential for online and digital technologies to address delays in reviews and improve public accessibility and transparency under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. E-NEPA.**

4 (a) PERMITTING PORTAL STUDY.—The Council on
5 Environmental Quality shall conduct a study and submit
6 a report to Congress within 1 year of the enactment of

1 this Act on the potential for online and digital technologies
2 to address delays in reviews and improve public accessi-
3 bility and transparency under section 102(2)(C) of the
4 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
5 4332(2)(C)) including, but not limited to, a unified per-
6 mitting portal that would—

7 (1) allow applicants to—

8 (A) submit required documents or mate-
9 rials for their project in one unified portal;

10 (B) upload and collaborate with the appli-
11 cable agencies to edit documents in real-time,
12 as required;

13 (C) upload and display visual features such
14 as video, animation, geographic information
15 system displays, and three-dimensional
16 renderings; and

17 (D) track the progress of individual appli-
18 cations;

19 (2) include a cloud based, digital tool for more
20 complex reviews that would enhance interagency co-
21 ordination in consultation by—

22 (A) centralizing, across all necessary agen-
23 cies, the data, visuals, and documents, including
24 but not limited to geographic information sys-
25 tem displays, other visual renderings, and com-

1 pleted reports and analyses necessary for re-
2 views;

3 (B) streamlining communications between
4 all necessary agencies and the applicant;

5 (C) allowing for comments and responses
6 by and to all necessary agencies in one unified
7 portal;

8 (D) generating analytical reports to aid in
9 organizing and cataloguing public comments;
10 and

11 (E) be accessible on mobile devices;

12 (3) boost transparency in agency processes and
13 present information suitable for a lay audience, in-
14 cluding but not limited to—

15 (A) scientific data and analysis; and

16 (B) anticipated agency process and
17 timeline; and

18 (4) include examples describing how at least
19 five permits would be reviewed and processed
20 through this portal.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for the Council
23 on Environmental Quality to carry out the study directed
24 by this section.

○