



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COMMON GOOD CHAIR PHILIP K. HOWARD PRAISES TWO PROPOSED FEDERAL REFORMS TO IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTING PROCESS**

**The Reforms Are Good for the Environment and Build Upon Recommendations Contained in Common Good’s 2015 Report “Two Years, Not Ten Years”**

**New York, NY – September 4, 2019** – Common Good, the nonpartisan reform coalition, today praised two interim policies of the US government designed to reform the permitting process for major infrastructure projects. The policies (Docket No. DOT-OST-2019-0118) were proposed by the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and [published in the \*Federal Register\*](#) on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The public comment period runs until September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The [first reform](#) would limit the text of environmental impact statements to 150 pages, unless they are of an unusual scope or complexity, in which case the limit would be 300 pages. The [second reform](#) would designate for every major infrastructure project (MIP) “one lead Federal agency to navigate the project through the environmental review and authorization process.” Both reforms are presented in support of the broader goal of “completing the environmental review process for MIPs in two years.”

In response to the proposed reforms, Common Good Chair Philip K. Howard stated the following:

“The two proposed policies would significantly advance the goal of reducing to two years the environmental review process for major infrastructure projects. That process can take a decade or more, and the case for shortening it can be found in Common Good’s 2015 report “[Two Years, Not Ten Years](#).”

Shortening environmental impact statements as proposed would focus attention on the material impacts rather than obscuring them in granular detail. Designating one lead federal agency for each major environmental review would clarify accountability and facilitate the settlement of disputes among affected agencies and states.

Permitting delays are generally bad for the environment. They perpetuate unnecessary pollution from existing inefficiencies, such as bumper-to-bumper traffic and out-of-date facilities, and they postpone the creation of much-needed greener infrastructure.”

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*Common Good* ([www.commongood.org](http://www.commongood.org)) is a nonpartisan reform coalition that believes individual responsibility, not rote bureaucracy, must be the organizing principle of government. It presents proposals to radically simplify government and restore the ability of officials and citizens alike to use common sense in daily decisions. The Founder and Chair of Common Good is Philip K. Howard, a lawyer and author of the new book [Try Common Sense](#) (W. W. Norton, 2019).