Permitting reform and chip fabs explained: SIA's statement on the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (S. 5653)

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Short answer: on 4 November 2026 the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) urged Congress to pass the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 (S. 5653), which would streamline federal permitting and environmental reviews. SIA says that more than $800 billion of investment in US semiconductor manufacturing is underway and that faster permitting would speed construction of fabs, power plants and transmission lines. It matters because energy and construction timelines now constrain chip and data-center capacity.

TL;DR The short version

- On 4 November 2026 SIA urged Congress to pass S. 5653, which would streamline federal permitting and environmental reviews.
- SIA says more than $800 billion of US chip manufacturing investment is underway and faster permits would speed fabs, power plants and transmission lines.
- The statement is industry advocacy; read the bill text and track its status, because capacity depends on permits and power as well as capital.

Read online, listen to it, or change the text size: https://blogs.iictp.org/sia-permitting-reform-s-5653-semiconductor-fabs-explained

What is S. 5653?

According to SIA's statement, the bill was introduced by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Shelley Moore Capito and Ranking Member Sheldon Whitehouse, and by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Mike Lee and Ranking Member Martin Heinrich. It would reinforce US competitiveness and boost domestic semiconductor production and innovation by streamlining federal permitting and environmental reviews.

What SIA says

- The United States is engaged in a "historic resurgence" of domestic semiconductor manufacturing and innovation, with more than $800 billion in investment underway across the country, according to SIA President and CEO Michael Robbins.
- The bill would speed construction of fabs, power plants and transmission lines that power AI and the wider economy, while maintaining strong environmental protections.

- Last month, a bipartisan group of former economic and national security officials wrote to congressional leaders in support of the bill, and SIA endorsed bipartisan permitting legislation passed by the House last year.

Why permitting matters to tech markets

- A fab, a power plant and a transmission line are separate projects, each needing federal and often state approvals. A delay in any one holds up capacity. See IEA on data-centre electricity demand for the power side.
- The statement links the bill to the supply chain: NVIDIA's supply-chain commitments show packaging and substrate capacity being added in several countries, including the United States.
- It sits beside other US policy items covered by SIA, such as the semiconductor investment credit extension.

Limitations and how to read it

- SIA is an industry trade association, and the statement is advocacy. The $800 billion figure is SIA's own; the statement does not break it down or give its source.
- The bill's text, cost, and expected effect on review times were not read. Only SIA's statement was.
- The status of the bill, that is, whether it has passed a committee or the Senate, is not given in the statement. Check Congress.gov for the current position.

How to follow it

1. Read the bill text and the committee reports on congress.gov to see which reviews it changes.
2. Track the status of S. 5653 through committee, floor and any House action.
3. Map your own projects, such as a data centre or a plant, to the approvals they need and see which ones the bill touches.
4. Separate trade-group claims from independent analysis of review times.

What it means for technology and infrastructure planners

Capacity is built by permits and power as much as by capital. Planners of data centres and fabs should treat approval timelines and grid connections as schedule risks, and should watch policy that changes them. This is general information, not legal or investment advice.

Frequently asked questions

- **What is S. 5653?** The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026, a Senate bill on federal permitting and environmental review.
- **Who supports it according to this source?** SIA, which urged Congress to pass it on 4 November 2026.
- **Why would chipmakers care?** Faster permitting could speed construction of fabs, power plants and transmission lines, per SIA.
- **Is it law?** The statement does not say it has passed; check Congress.gov.

Related reading

- Semiconductor investment credit extension (S. 5809)
- IEA: electricity demand and data centres
- Export control rule on remote access

Sources and currency

Sources were read on 24 November 2026. Products, rules and standards change, so check the linked originals before you rely on any detail. The source is an industry association statement.

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Sources and further reading

1. Semiconductor Industry Association. SIA Urges Senate to Pass Bipartisan Permitting Reform Legislation to Boost U.S. Competitiveness. 4 November 2026. semiconductors.org/sia-urges-senate-to-pass-bipartisan-permitting-reform-legislation-to-boost-u-s-competitiveness.

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