

Federal Environmental Policy – Is This the New Normal?

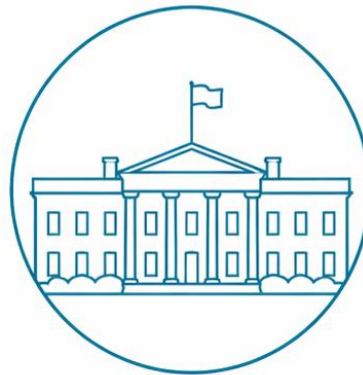


All Three Branches Influencing Permitting Policy

LEGISLATIVE



EXECUTIVE



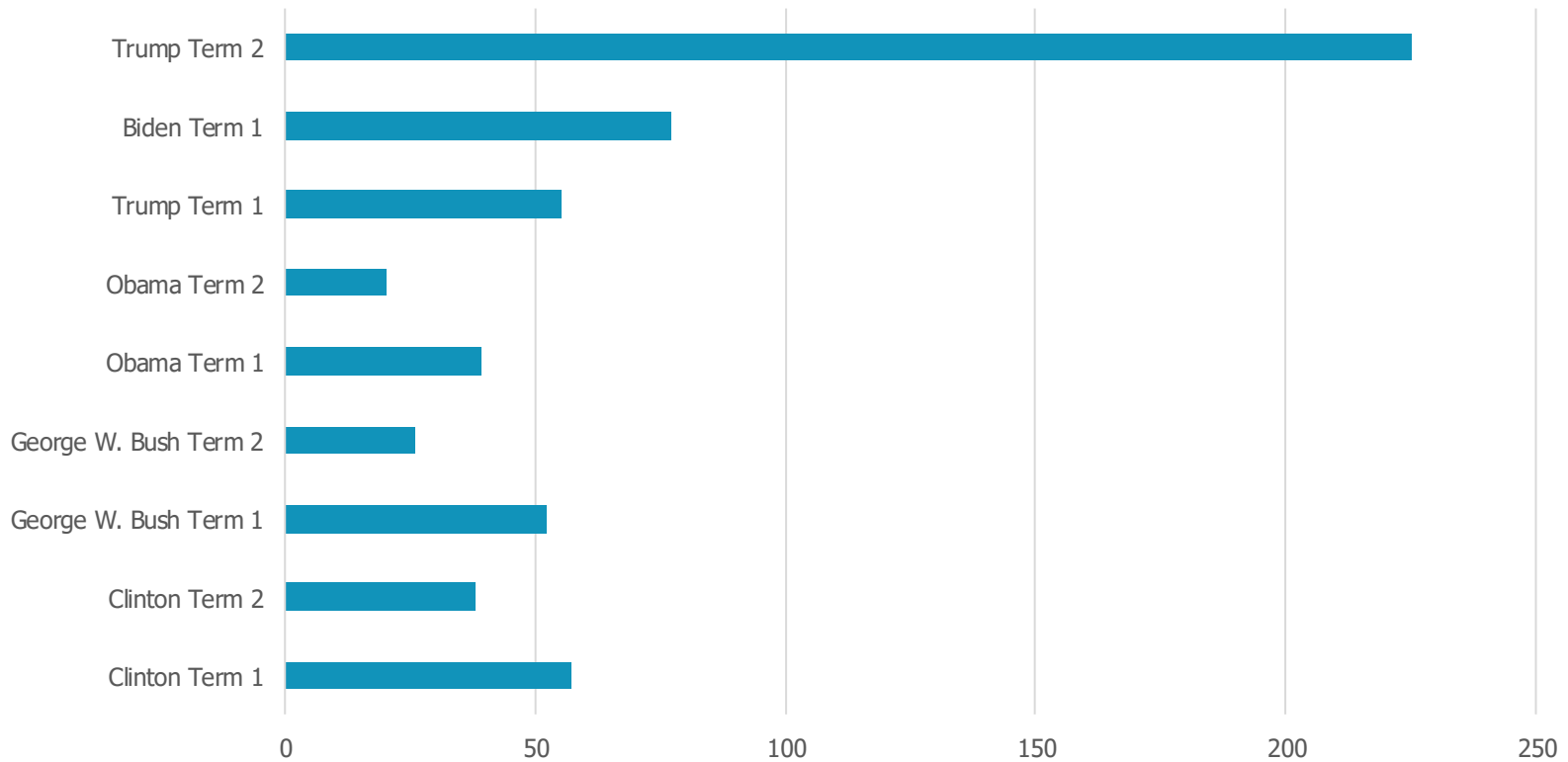
JUDICIAL



Year 1 Executive Orders

Executive Action Accelerates

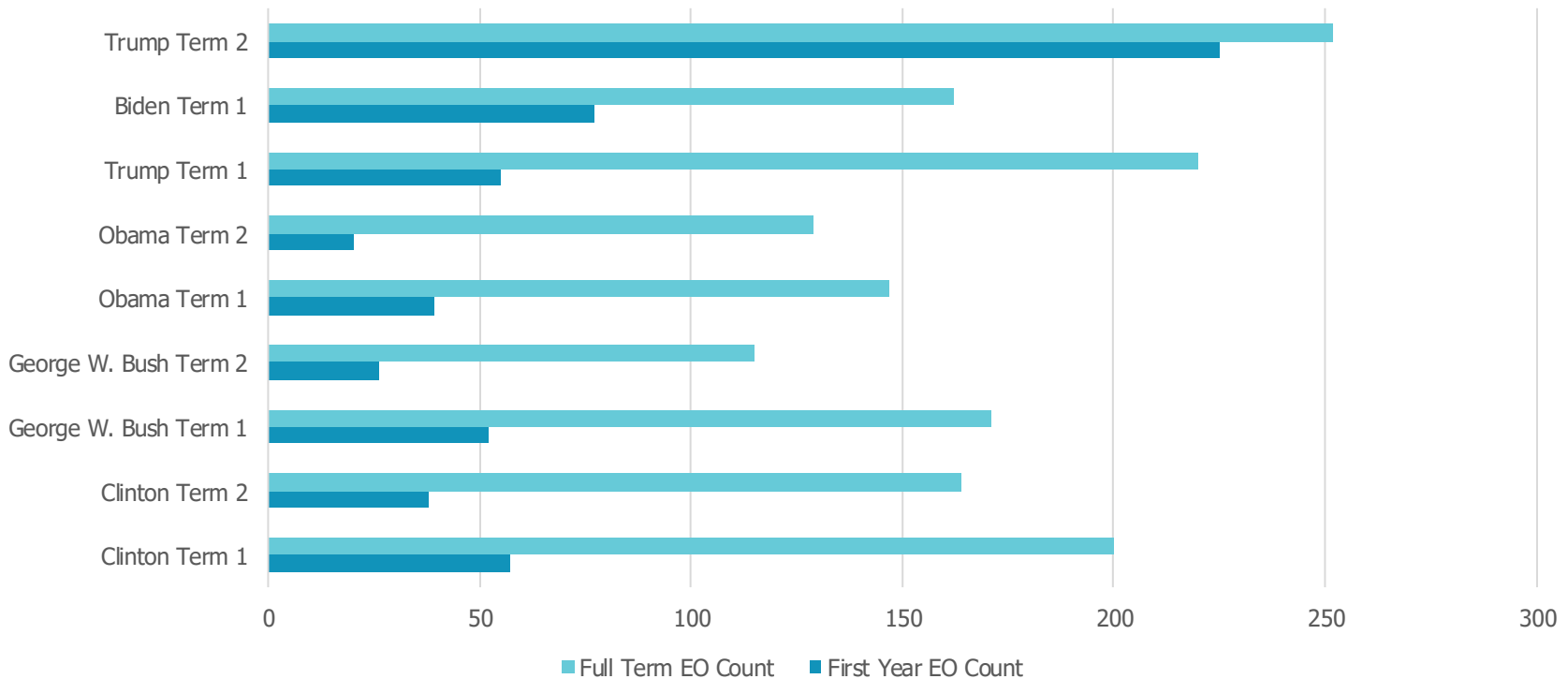
First-Year Executive Orders



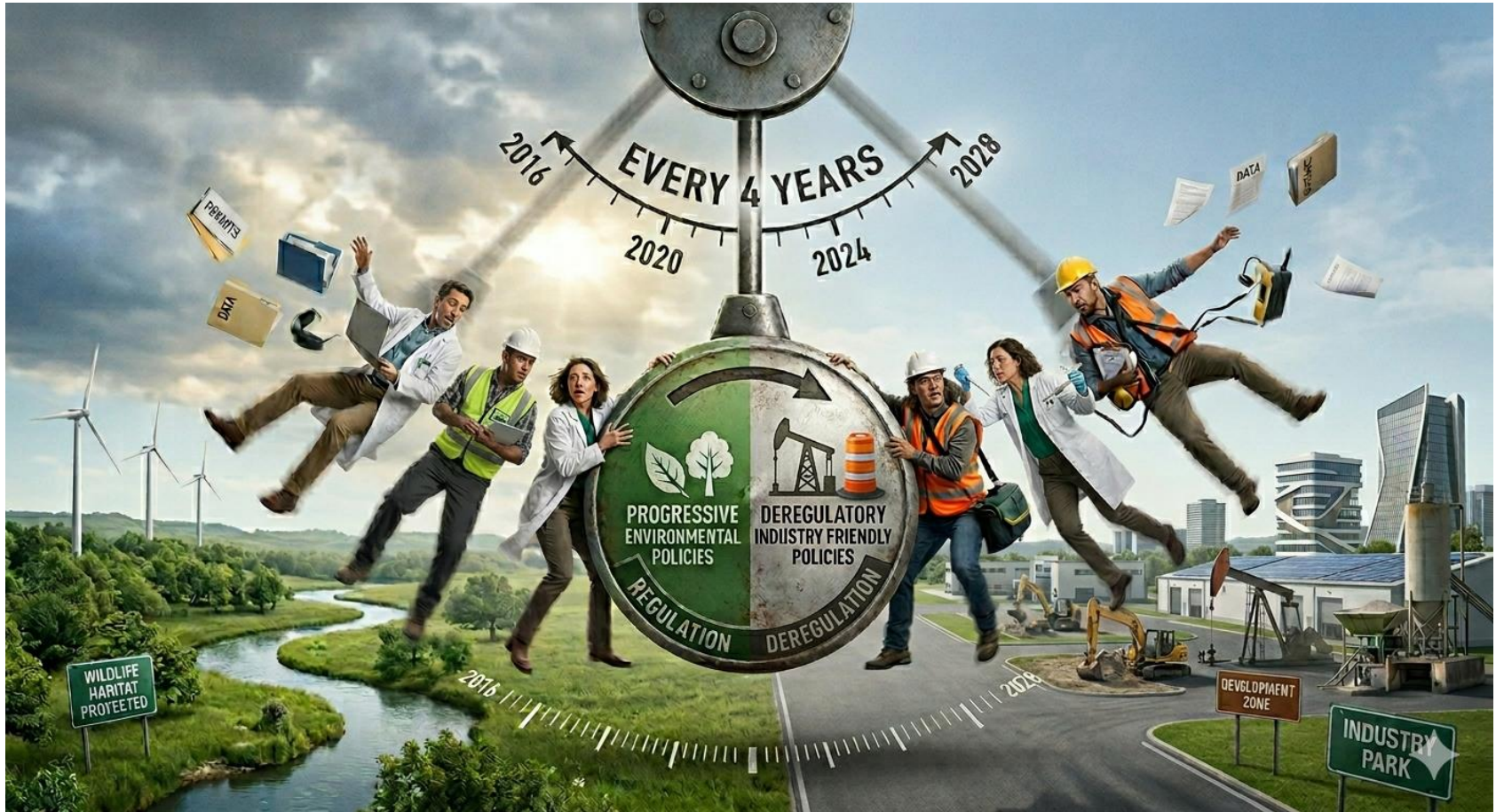
Comparative Executive Order Totals

We're only at the beginning of year 2

First Year vs. Full Term



The Policy Pendulum Swings



Permitting as a Policy Lever



Same Statutes → Different Outcomes

Implementation drives results



Policy Direction

Executive priorities influence
permitting decisions

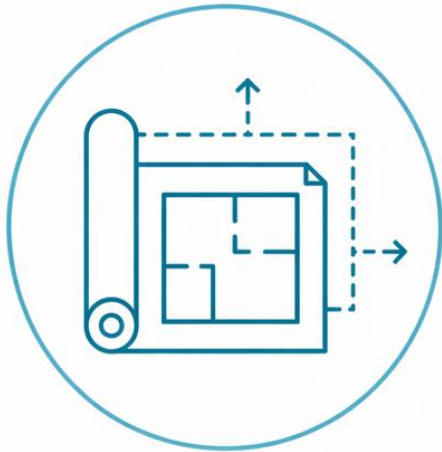


New Uses of Existing Authorities

Old laws applied in new ways

**Permitting functions as a policy lever —
*shaping outcomes without changing underlying statutes.***

Why This Matters



SCOPE

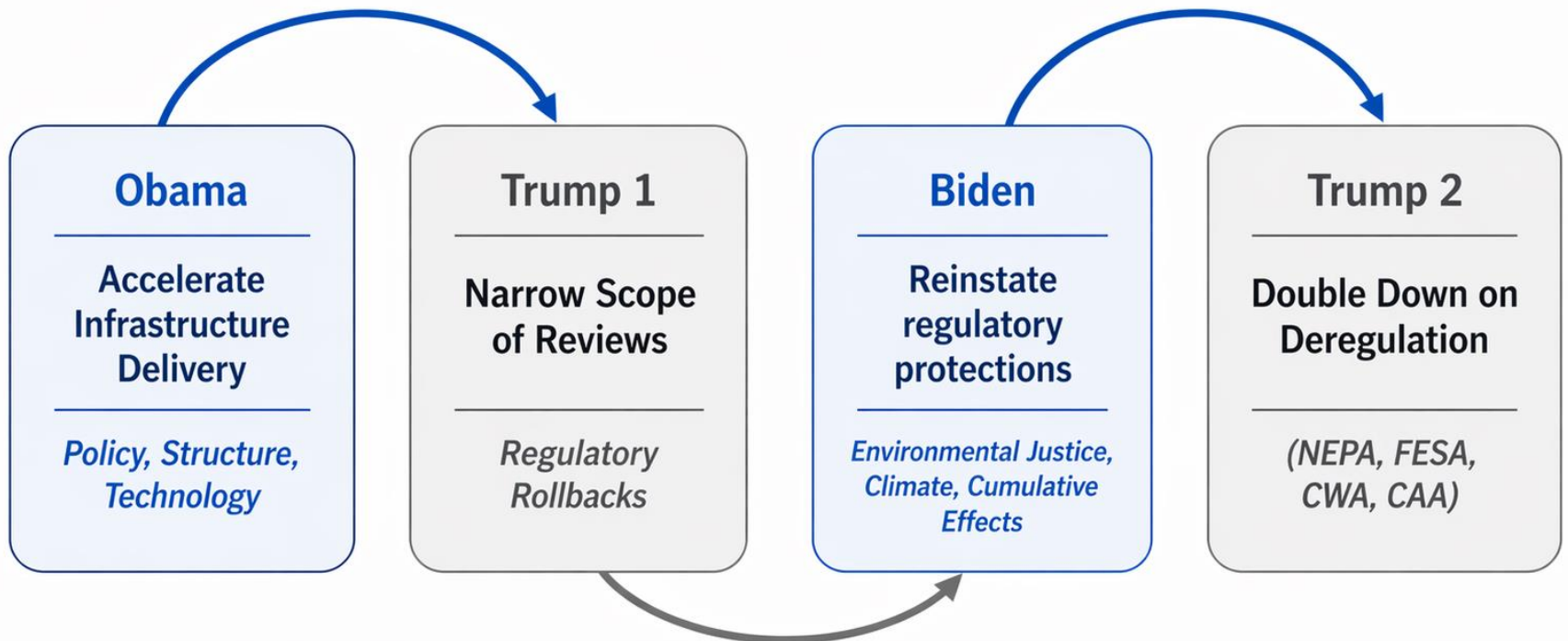


SCHEDULE



BUDGET

POLICY WHIPLASH



Permitting policy direction shifts across administrations—creating instability for long-cycle infrastructure projects.

Policy Shapes Process

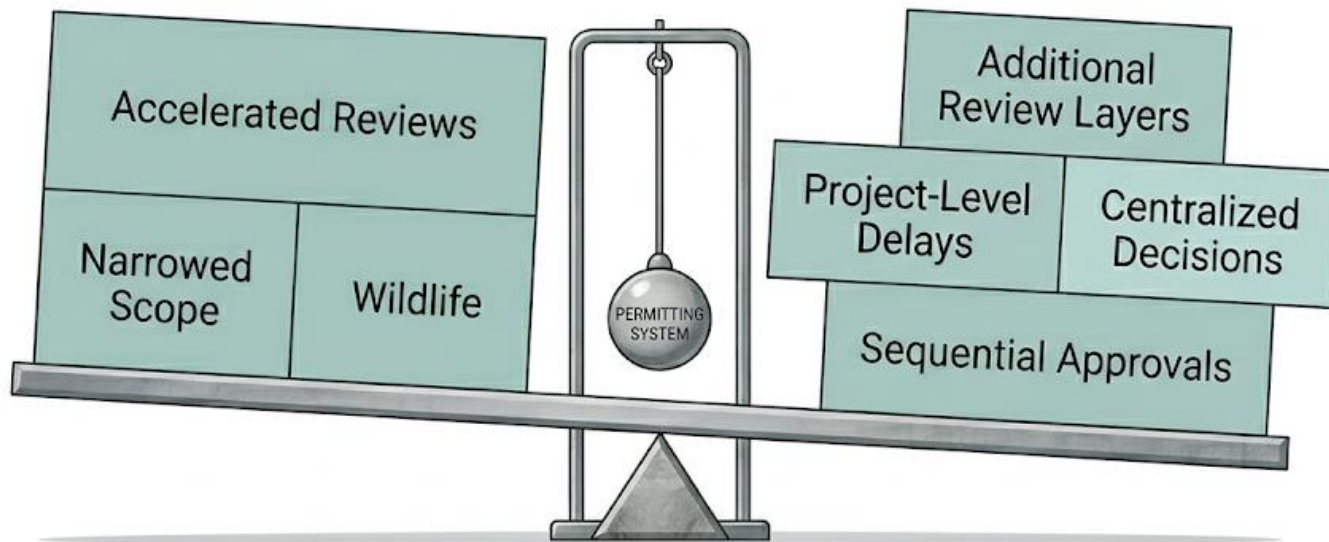


Policy shapes process — and process determines which projects move forward.

Infrastructure Sectors

Politics Tip Scales for Efficient Reviews

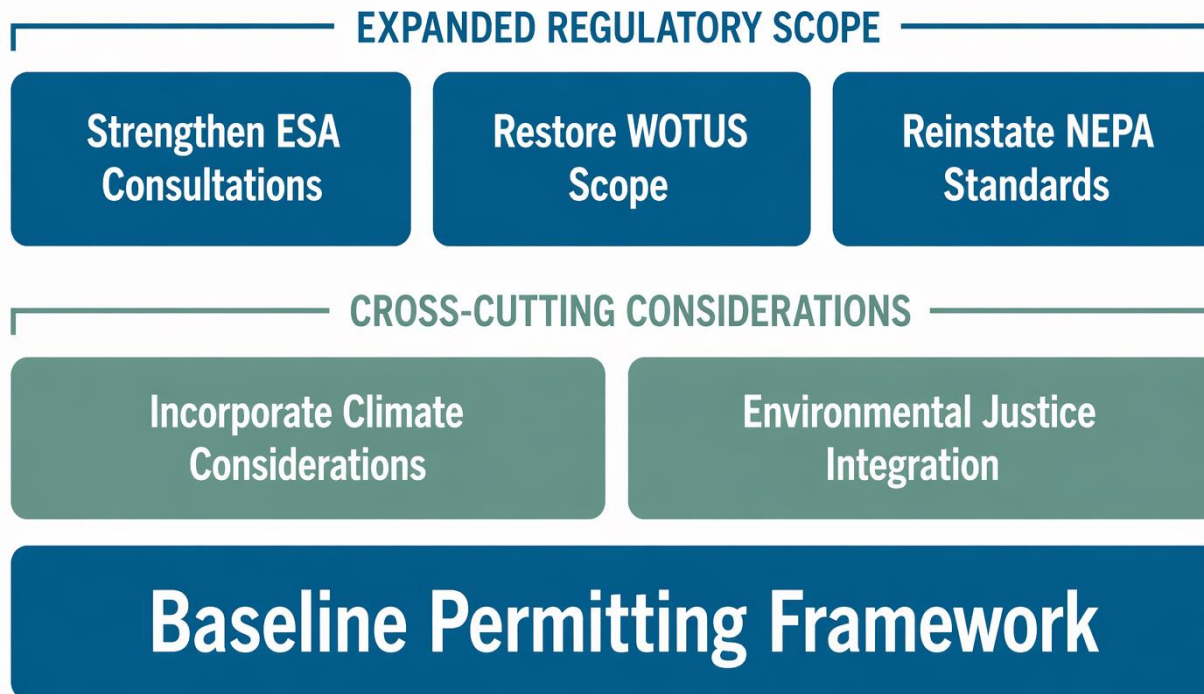
Permitting Burden Shifts Across Sectors



Friction shifts—it doesn't disappear.

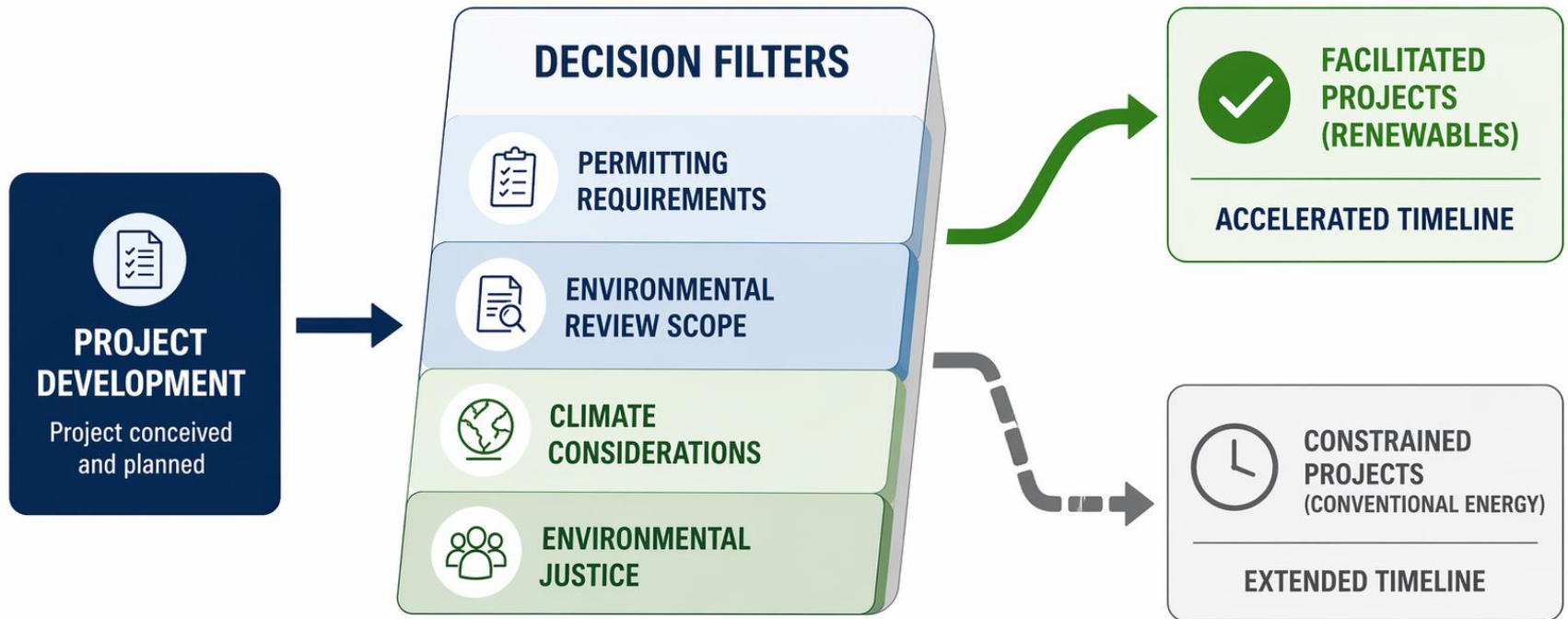
Biden Era Permitting Policies

Expansion and Restoration of Environmental Review Standards



Cross-cutting considerations shape all federal decisions

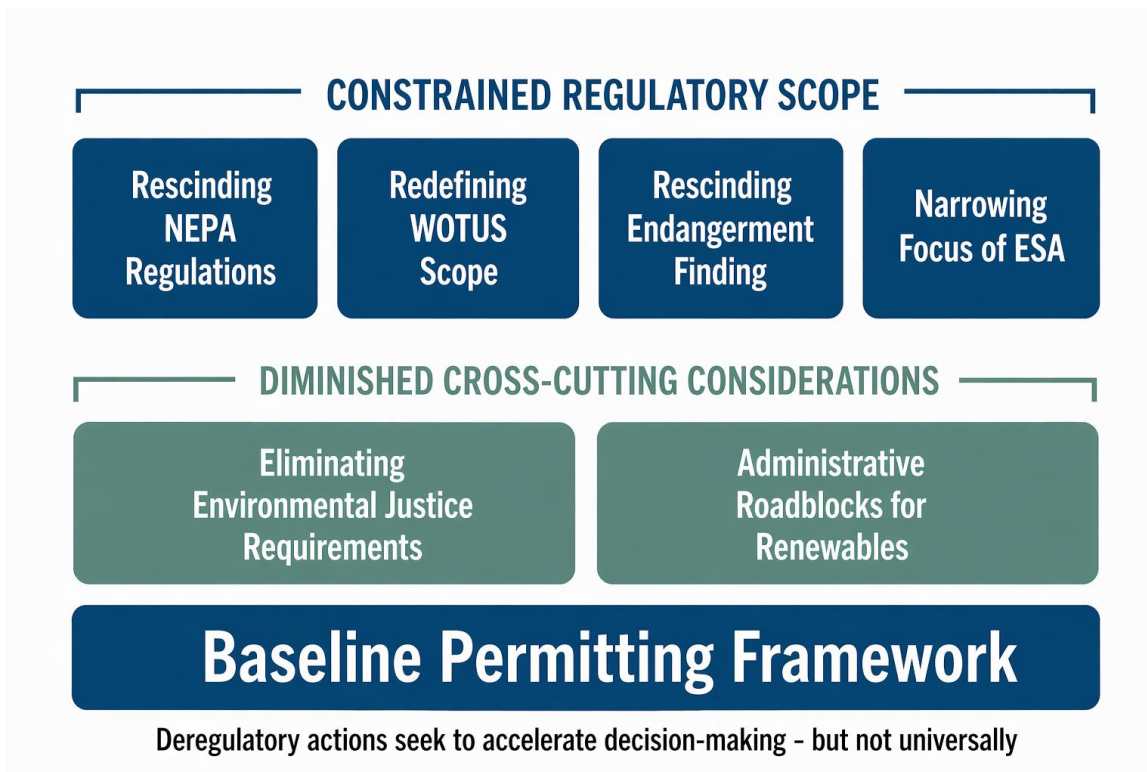
Practical Effect of Biden Policies



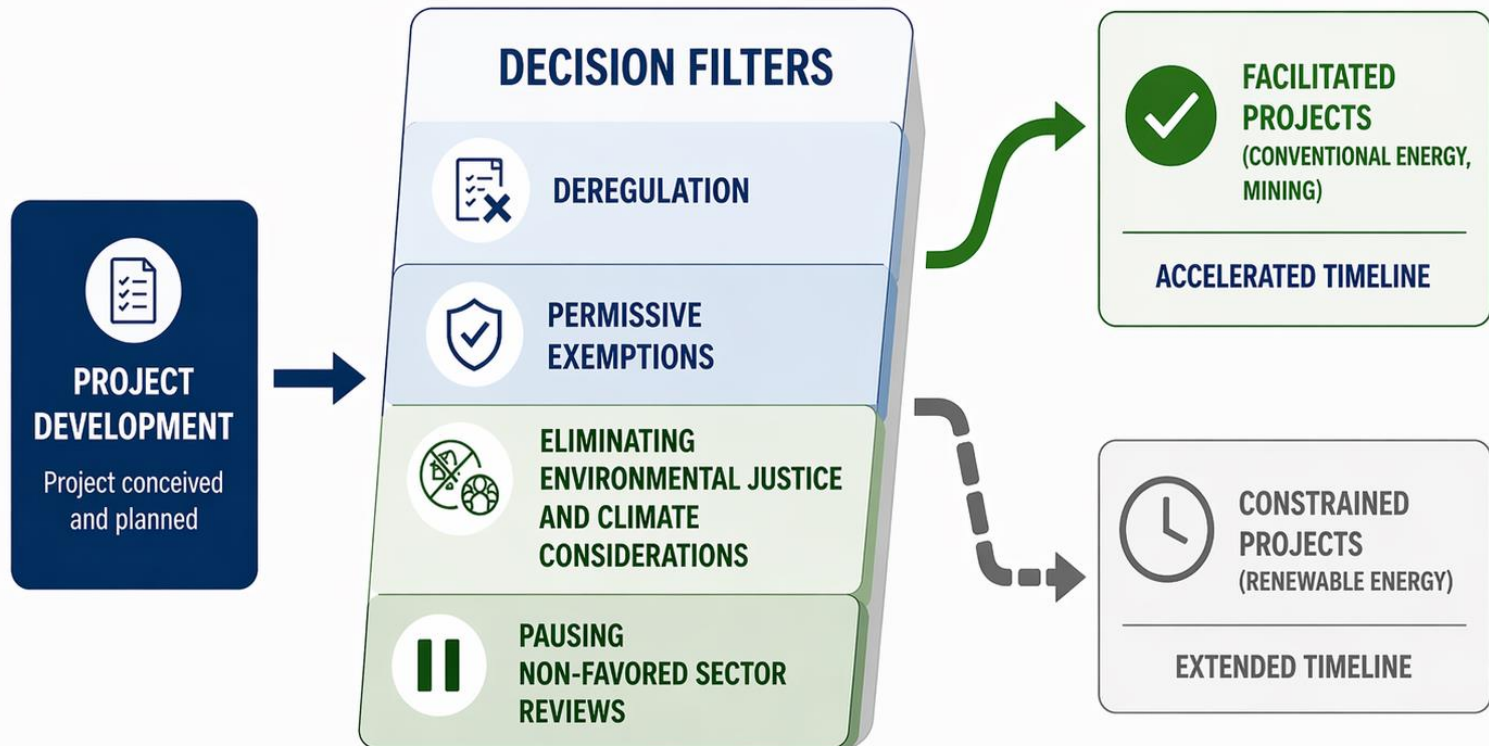
 **SAME PROCESS. DIFFERENT OUTCOMES. POLICY CHOICES DRIVE THE DIVERGENCE.**

Trump 2.0 -> Deregulation & Streamlining

Doubling down on 1st Term Priorities



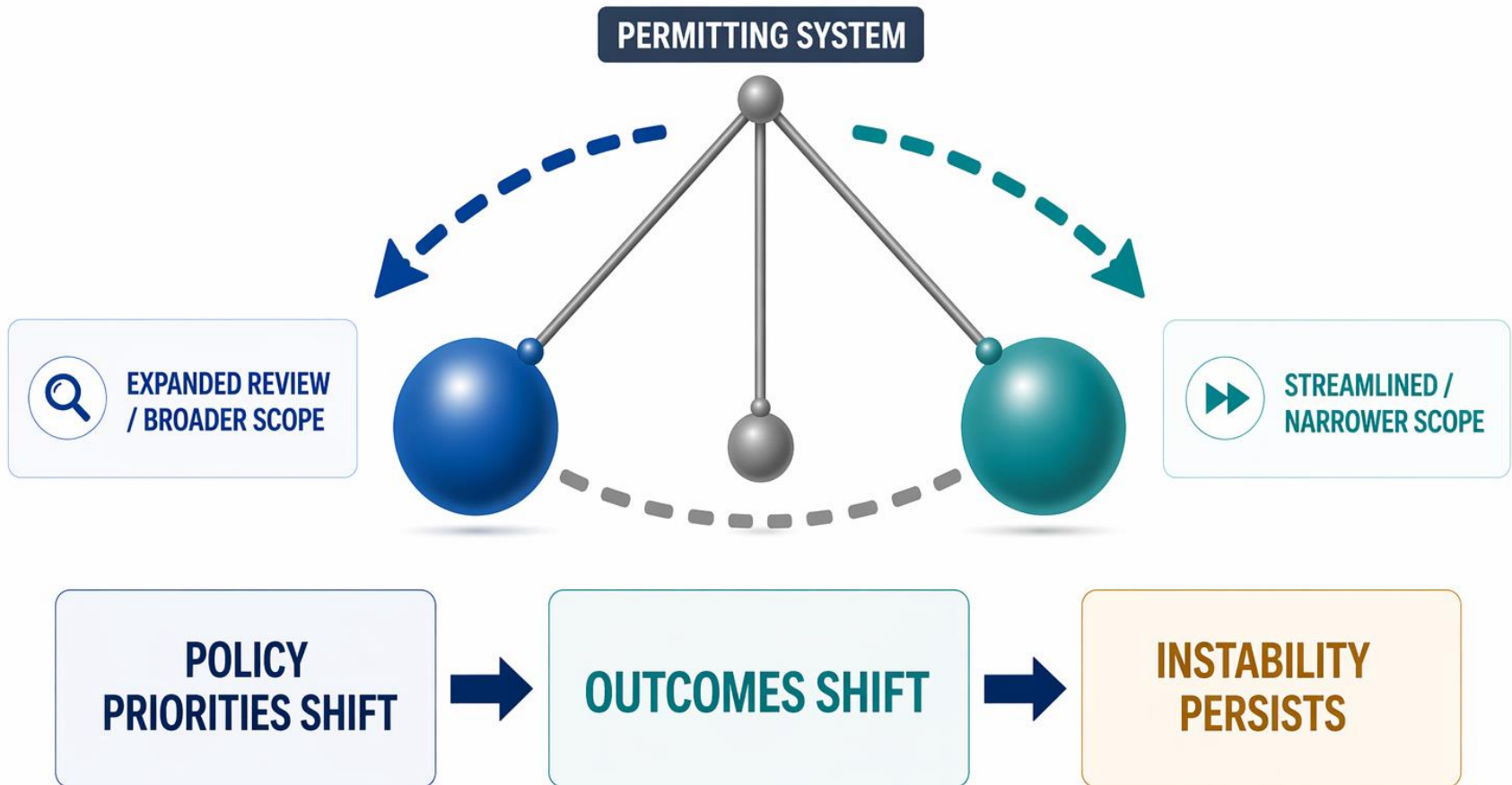
Practical Effect of Trump Policies



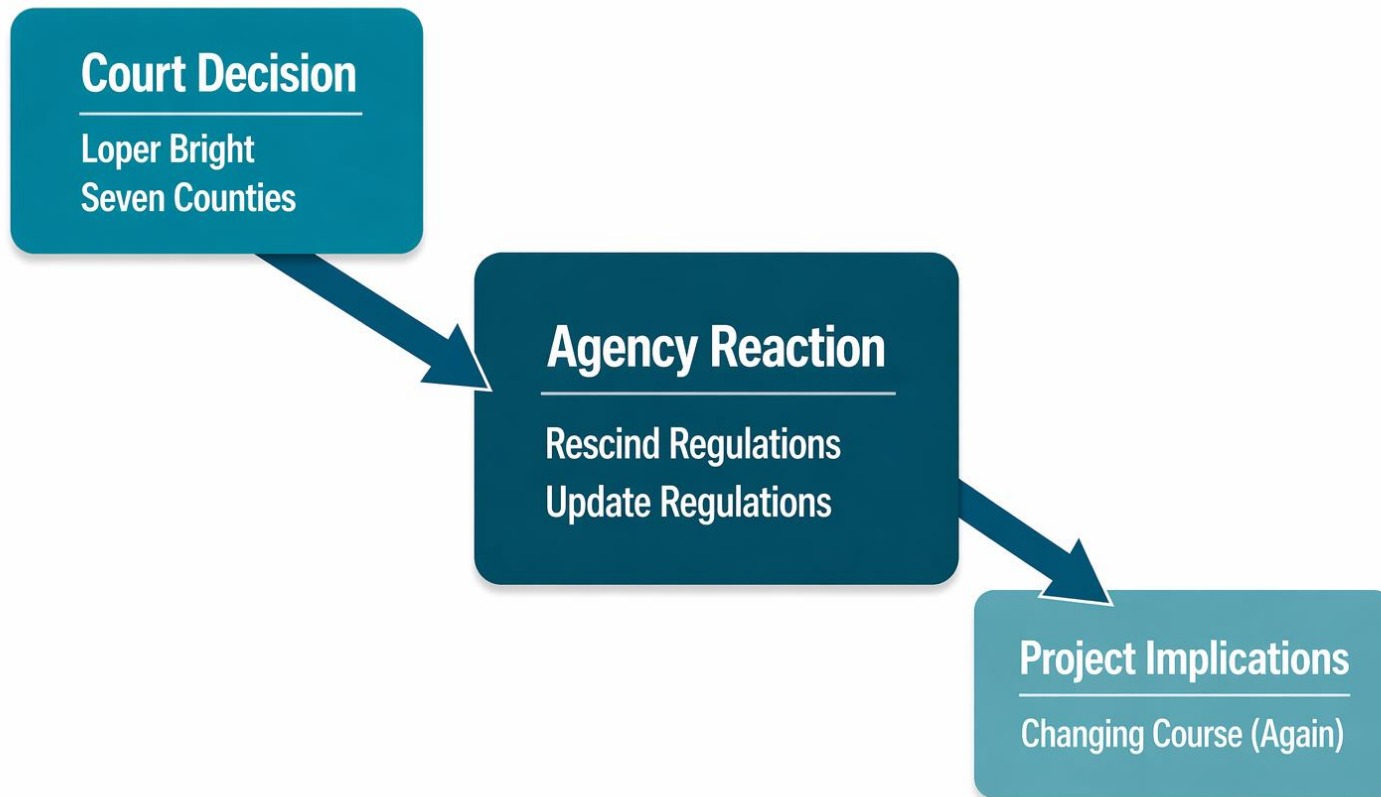
SAME PROCESS. DIFFERENT OUTCOMES. POLICY CHOICES DRIVE THE DIVERGENCE.

The Pendulum in Action

The system is repeatedly reweighted—outcomes change, but instability remains.

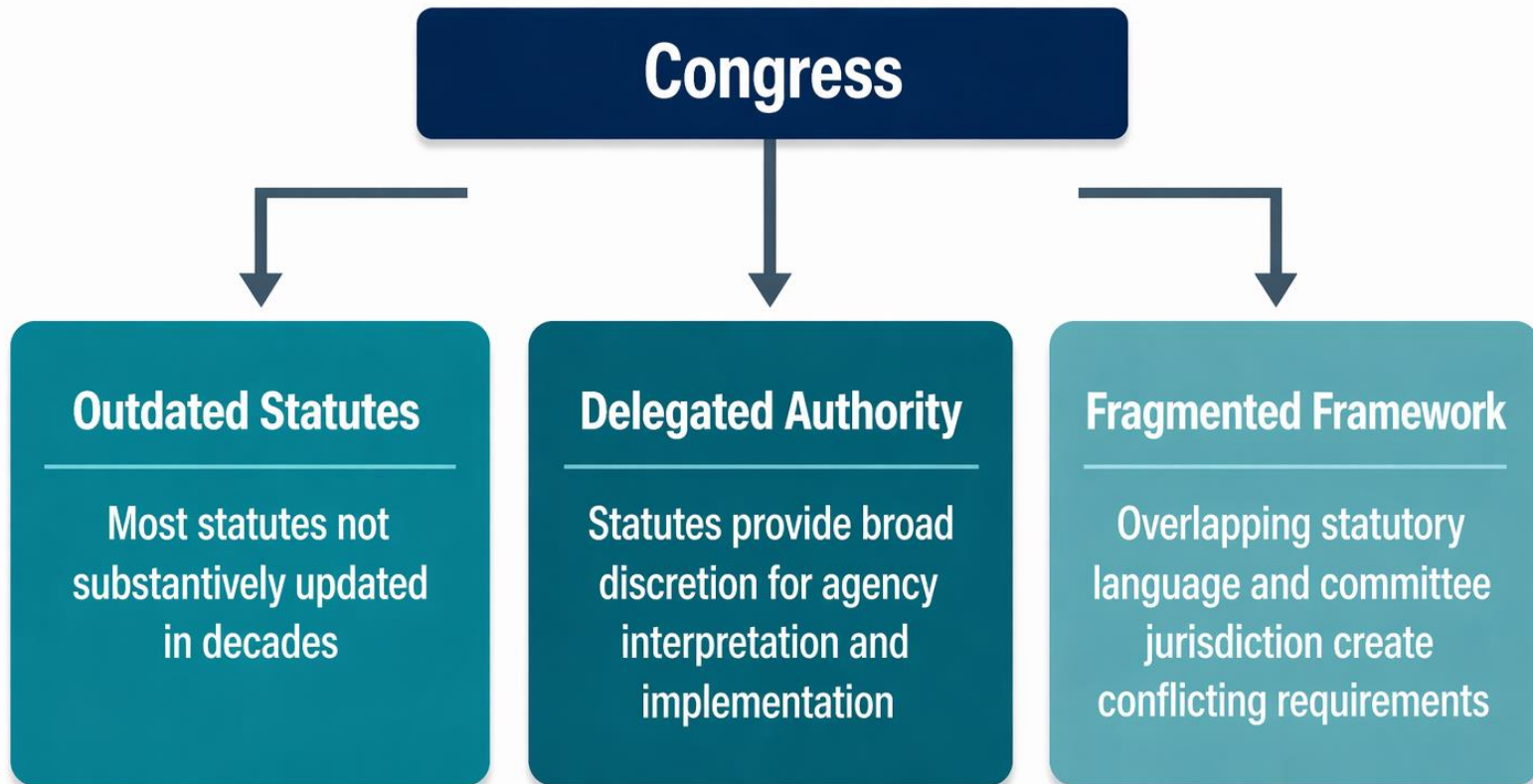


Court Interpretations Cause Disruptions



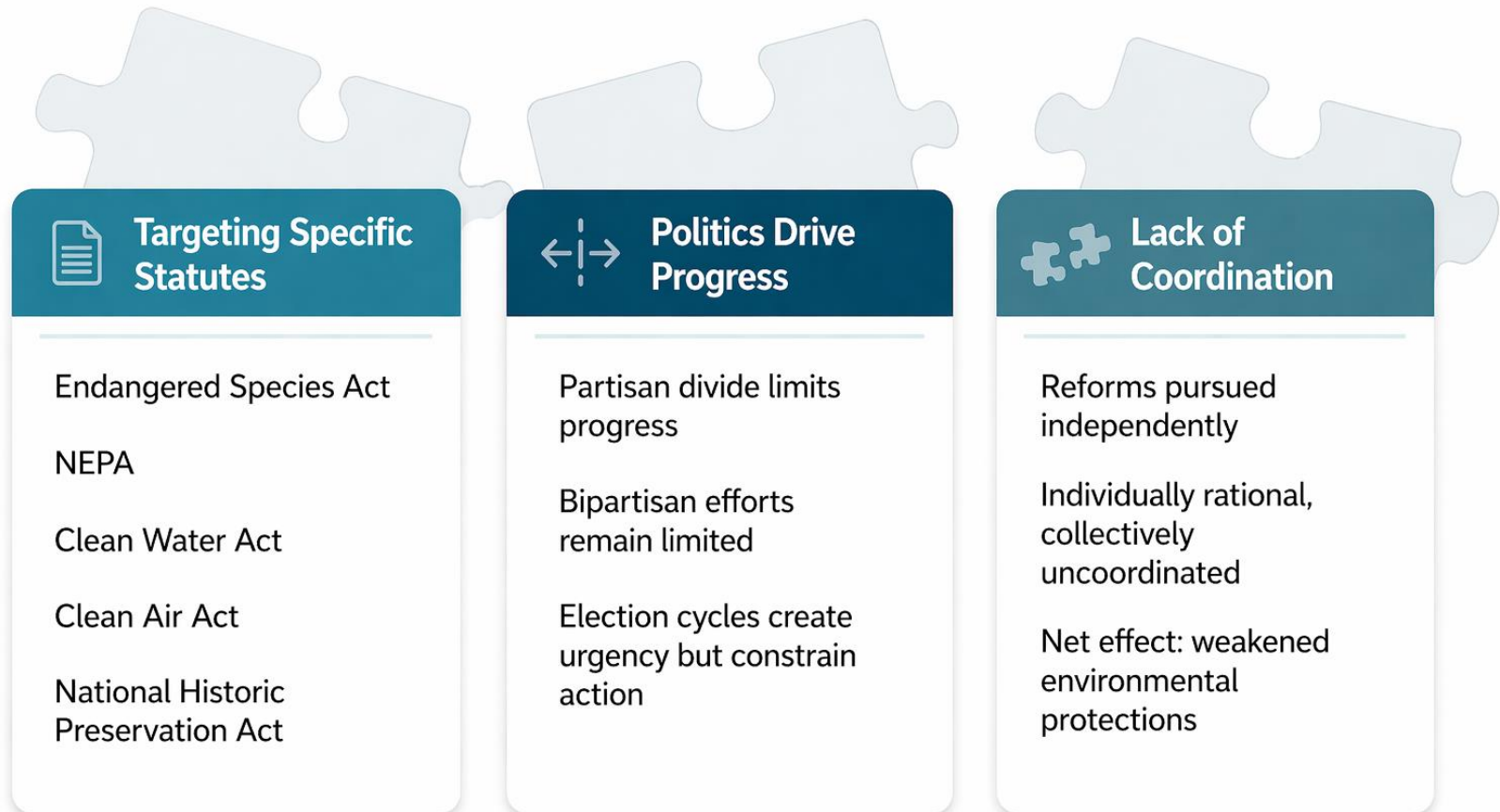
Court decisions reset the regulatory framework — agencies respond, and projects adjust.

What's the Role of Congress?



Congress defines the statutory framework — agencies interpret and implement within it.

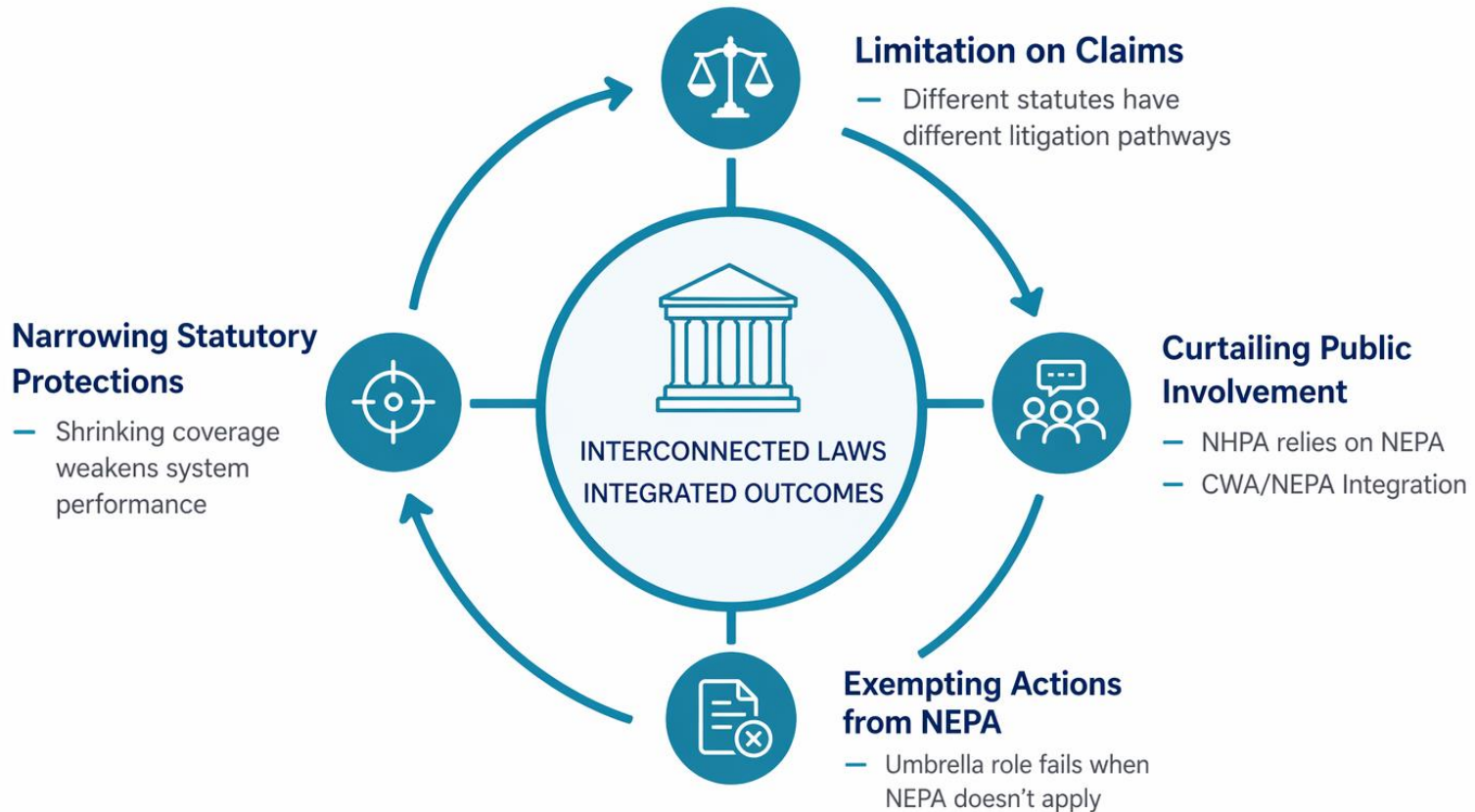
Reform Underway Is Scattershot



Reform efforts target individual statutes — but lack a coordinated system-wide approach.

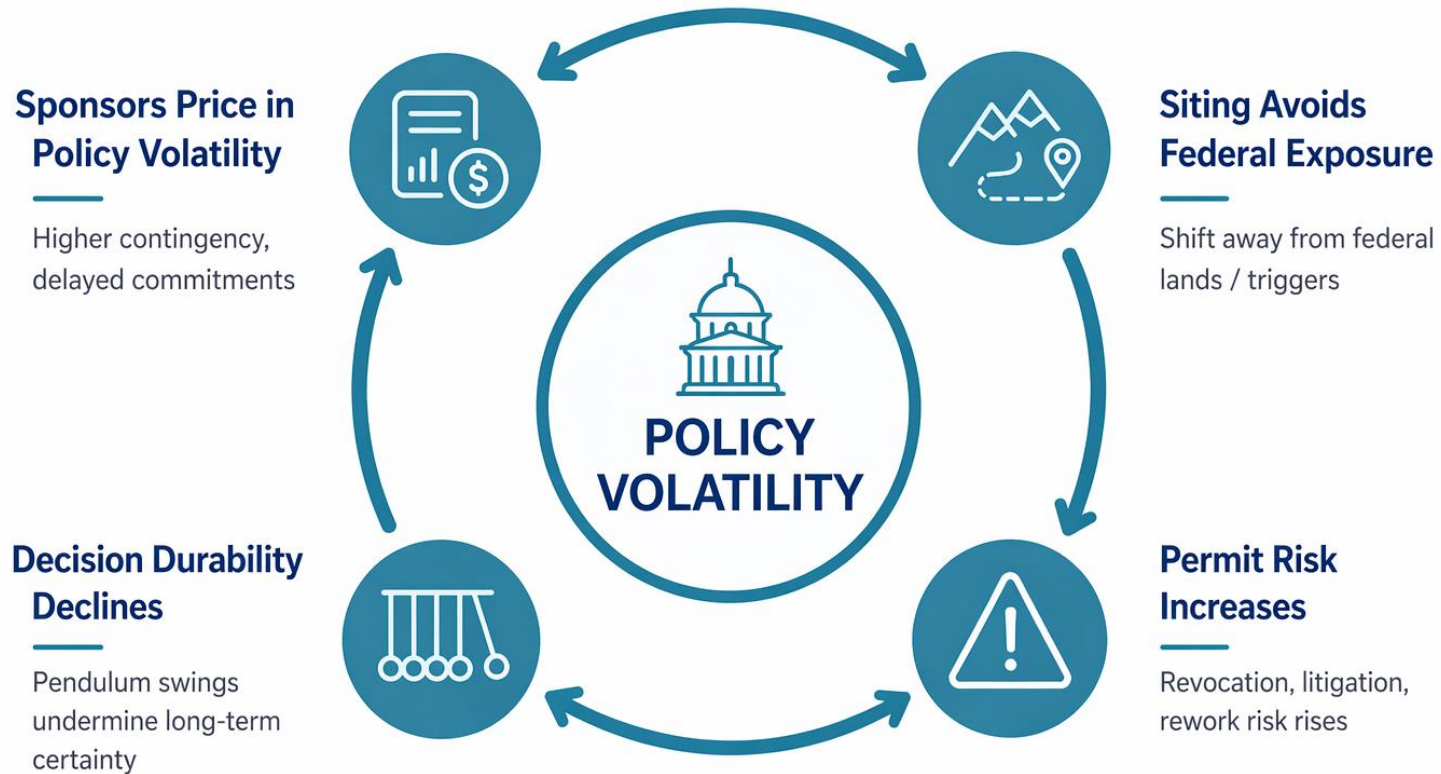
Permitting Reform is Fragmented

Federal Environmental Laws Function Together



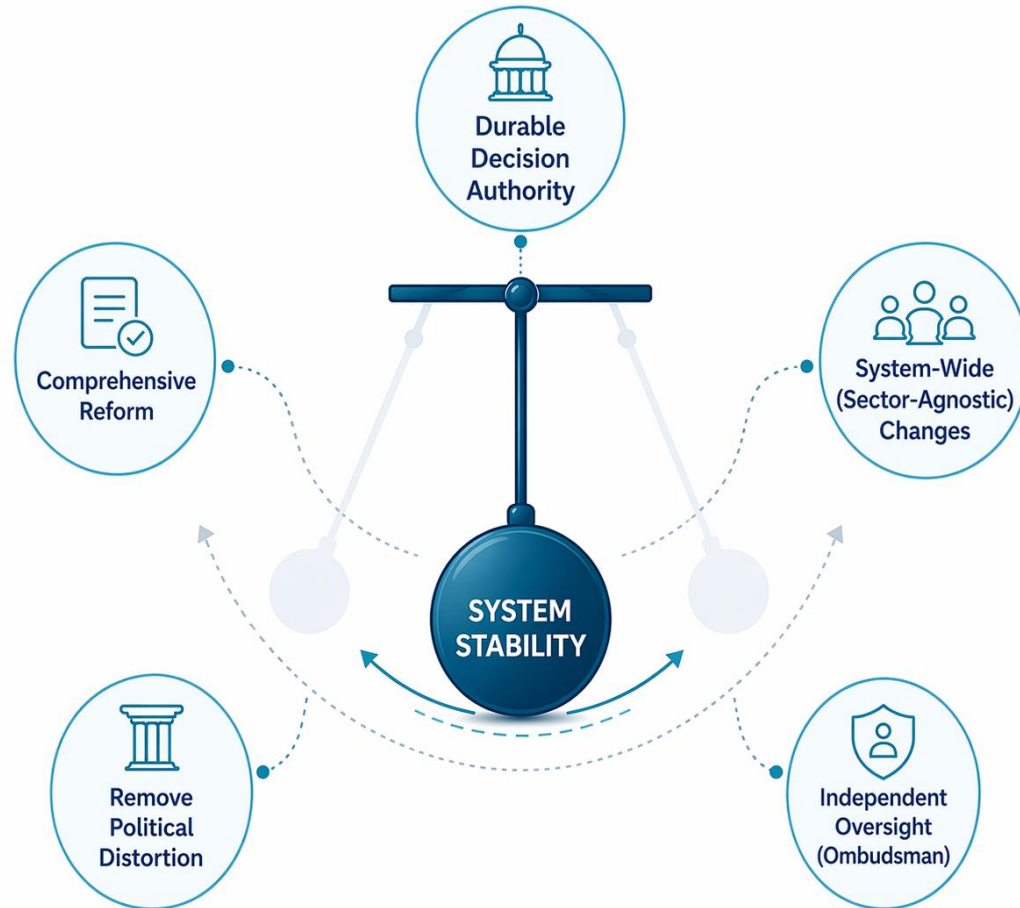
Reform requires a comprehensive, system-wide view of the permitting landscape.

Where Does This Leave Us?



Policy volatility doesn't just delay projects — it changes how and where they are built.

How Do We Stop the Pendulum Swing?

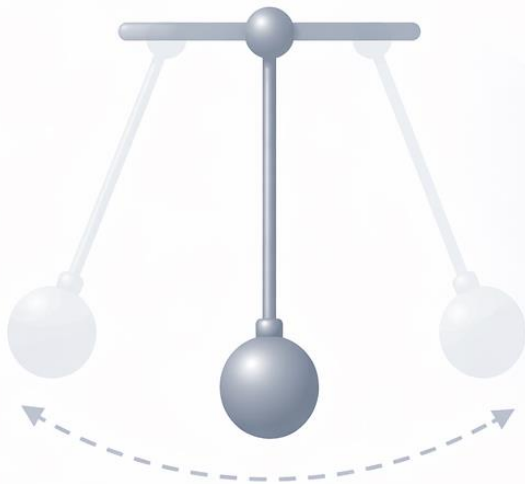


Stability requires structural reform — not incremental adjustments.

We Don't Have to Normalize the Swings

Volatile System

Policy swings
Uncertain outcomes
Elevated project risk



Stable System

Durable decisions
Integrated reform
Predictable outcomes
Transparent, accountable process



Stability reduces risk and improves how projects are delivered.



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Thank You!