

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and
Minority Leader Reid:

The 119 undersigned companies and organizations write to express our support for hydropower, the nation's largest renewable electricity resource, and advancing the bipartisan work underway in both the House and Senate to modernize the hydropower regulatory process.

Hydropower is critical to reducing carbon emissions and meeting our nation's climate goals. It is the single largest source of renewable, emissions-free electricity in the United States. Not only does it provide close to 50 percent of all renewable electricity generation, hydropower also provides flexible generation, energy storage, load following and base-load power. It both facilitates the integration of intermittent renewable sources and helps ensure electric grid reliability.

Hydropower provides many benefits to the communities it serves across the country, such as cleaner air, greater public recreational opportunities, community improvements, lower electricity costs, more reliable service, and valued economic activity and employment opportunities.

Yet, maintaining and expanding these substantial benefits is at risk as existing hydropower projects undergoing relicensing and new projects under development are stymied and delayed by inefficient, duplicative and lengthy approval processes. Hydropower authorization - whether for existing or new projects - regularly takes many years to complete, much longer than other energy options.

The need for improvements in hydropower licensing is real and pressing for both existing and new projects.

Hydropower is an invaluable resource - and it is one that our country can do, and should do, more to enhance. Right now, proposals for new capacity are at levels not seen in many years, with studies showing tremendous additional growth potential. In addition, nearly 400 existing

hydropower projects - constituting over 35 percent of all current hydropower capacity regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - will require reauthorization over the next 15 years.

Addressing the regulatory inefficiencies for hydropower projects is critical if we are serious about addressing our national energy challenges. The hydropower industry is fully committed to addressing these challenges in a way that promotes clean, renewable hydropower while enhancing our nation's rivers and other natural resources, reducing environmental impacts, and providing for recreation and other public values.

In an "all of the above" energy strategy, hydropower is, and must continue to be, an indispensable resource to reduce carbon emissions and provide flexible electricity production. We strongly support the bipartisan efforts in the House and Senate to modernize hydropower licensing to ensure that it is consistent with current and long-term national clean energy needs - all while keeping in place the environmental protections and other benefits that we agree are critical.

Sincerely,

A. Philip Randolph Institute Western Region

Accel Group LLC

Advanced Hydro Solutions

Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona

Alaska Power Association

Allete / Minnesota Power

Ameren Missouri

American Governor

American Municipal Power, Inc.

American Public Power Association

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

Avista Corp

Azusa Light & Water

Bowersock Mills and Power Company

Business Council for Sustainable Energy

California Black Chamber of Commerce

California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

California Municipal Utilities Association
Centennial Island Hydroelectric
Central Valley Opportunity Center
Chelan County PUD
CMS Energy
Colorado River Water Conservation District
Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Cordova Electric Cooperative
Crisp County Power Commission
Cube Hydro
Czech Tech Investments LLC
Duke Energy Corporation
Eagle Creek Renewable Energy
Edison Electric Institute
El Concilio of San Mateo County
Enel Green Power North America, Inc.
Energy Efficiency Council, Inc.
Family Farm Alliance
GE Renewable Energy
Grand River Dam Authority
Grant PUD
HeliosAltas Corp
HDR
Hispanics in Energy
Hyundai Ideal Electric
Hydro Consulting & Maintenance Services, Inc.
Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association
Idaho Power
Imperial Irrigation District

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers
Jordan Hydroelectric Limited Partnership
Kaukauna Utilities
Kleinschmidt
Kodiak Electric Association
La Coperativa Campesina de California
Large Public Power Council
Loup River Public Power District
Mavel Americas, Inc.
Mead & Hunt
Merced Irrigation District
Methuen Falls Hydroelectric
Michigan Municipal Electric Association
Mid-West Electric Consumers Association
Midwest Hydro Users Group
Missouri River Energy Services
Modesto Irrigation District
Montana Electric Cooperatives Association
Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma
MWH
National Hydropower Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Water Resources Association
Nebraska Public Power District
Nelson Energy
New York Association of Public Power
Noah Corp

North America's Building Trades Unions
Northeast Public Power Association
Northern California Power Agency
Northern Wasco County People's Utility District
Northwest Hydroelectric Association
Northwest Irrigation Utilities
Northwest Pipe Company
Northwest Public Power Association
Northwest Requirements Utilities
Northwest RiverPartners
Ohio Municipal Electric Association
Olson Electric Development
Oregon People's Utility District Association
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Pasadena Water and Power
PNGC Power
Proteus, Inc.
Public Power Council
Redwood Community Action Agency
Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana
Sabine River Authority of Texas
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
San Diego County Water Authority
Santee Cooper
Southeast Alaska Power Agency
Southern California Edison
Southern California Public Power Authority
Southern Company

Spaulding Consultants
Summit Global Hydro, LLC
Tacoma Power
The Latino Coalition
Toledo Bend Project Joint Operation
TransCanada
Turlock Irrigation District
United Brotherhood of Carpenters
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Voith Hydro, Inc.
Washington Public Utility Districts Association
Washington Rural Electric Co-op Association
Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce
Weir American Hydro
WV Hydro, Inc.

cc: Sen. John Cornyn, Majority Whip
 Sen. Richard Durbin, Minority Whip
 Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 Sen. Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 Rep. Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader
 Rep. Steve Scalise, Majority Whip
 Rep. Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip
 Rep. Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
 Rep. Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce