



STATEMENT

25 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. · Suite 450 · Washington, D.C., 20001 · 202/682-1700 · www.hydro.org

Media Contact: Matthew Nocella
202/682-1700 ex. 21 · matt@hydro.org

For Immediate Release

President's visit to Hoover highlights hydropower's promise

Legislative action needed to expand hydropower, create jobs

Washington, D.C. (October 10, 2012) – The following letter to the editor was submitted to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* on Oct. 3 by Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on President Barack Obama's visit to Hoover Dam on Oct. 2:

“On Tuesday, President Barack Obama took time from debate preparations to visit Hoover Dam, which has been a source of reliable, affordable hydropower for hundreds of thousands of Americans in Nevada, California, and Arizona for decades. The “spectacular” undertaking, as the president aptly put it, put thousands of Americans to work during the worst economic time in our nation's history.

“Today, we have the opportunity to tap unutilized hydropower resources and create tens of thousands of jobs without new large infrastructure like Hoover. Surprising to most, only 3 percent of the nation's 80,000 dams generate electricity. The Department of Energy has estimated that adding energy generation to many of these could add the equivalent of approximately 12 nuclear plants of renewable capacity across the country. Additional potential could be realized through small hydro, pumped storage and in-conduit applications.

“In July, the House of Representatives brought us one step closer to achieving that growth when it unanimously passed legislation creating a more efficient regulatory process for these low-impact projects. The Senate, under the leadership of Majority Leader Harry Reid, should send that bill to President Obama's desk by the end of the year to help put Americans back to work and expand their access to untapped clean energy.”

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