



STATEMENT

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For Immediate Release

NHA Statement on the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2010

Bipartisan bill supports clean, reliable, domestic hydropower development

Washington, D.C. (July 13, 2010) – The following is a statement from National Hydropower Association Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci responding to the bipartisan introduction the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2010 by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and original co-sponsors Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Mike Crapo (R-ID), and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA).

"The National Hydropower Association congratulates Senators Murkowski, Murray, Crapo, and Cantwell on the introduction the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2010. They show great vision in turning to hydropower to provide clean, reliable, domestic energy generation, while also creating jobs in every state in the country – in fact, the measure will help create 1.4 million cumulative jobs nationwide over the next 15 years.

"The strong bipartisan support for this bill also highlights hydropower's broad appeal as means of addressing our country's energy, economic, and environmental needs. As legislators craft energy and environmental policy, hydropower is the proven, reliable, domestic energy resource that serves all Americans.

"The bill includes provisions that will help make existing hydro resources more efficient, convert existing dams to energy-generating resources, and support small conduit technologies, as well as pumped-storage project development, all while furthering environmental protection. This approach focuses on new technologies and new approaches, not necessarily new dams.

"The bill also looks to the future, by providing for federal research and development and worker-training programs. This will ensure that, as a country, we can continue to bring new waterpower technologies to market, and that we'll have the pool of skilled workers needed to expand hydropower's benefits.

"NHA hopes that this bill also spurs additional consideration of hydropower in energy and climate policymaking. For example, Congress must provide continued long-term incentives for project development to create the stable investment environment developers need to expand America's hydropower resources.

"NHA strongly supports this effort to maximize hydropower's contribution in meeting the country's energy, environmental and economic goals. We salute Sen. Murkowski and the bill's co-sponsors for their work and stand ready to work with Congress, the White House, and other stakeholders to ensure that hydropower is supported in any energy and/or climate bill that moves forward."

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