



# STATEMENT

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## For Immediate Release

### **NHA welcomes dialogue on new hydropower legislation**

#### *Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci*

Washington, D.C. (April 24, 2015) – The following is a statement from Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on the release of proposed hydropower regulatory improvement legislation:

“Today, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) took a crucial first step to address barriers to developing our nation’s untapped clean hydropower potential, releasing a discussion draft bill that proposes improvements to the licensing and administration of the nation’s non-federal hydropower resources, both existing projects and new development.

“Hydropower is America’s single largest resource of renewable electricity, providing low-cost, flexible and clean power generation to families and businesses across all 50 states. Over the next 10 years, the existing licenses for nearly 250 hydropower projects, totaling more than 11,000 MW of installed capacity, will need to be renewed. Additionally, numerous government studies demonstrate tremendous potential to increase hydropower’s contribution to our country’s energy portfolio. Preserving existing hydropower and promoting environmentally responsible development of new renewable hydropower resources will help meet an “all of the above” energy strategy, decrease our reliance on fossil fuels, and reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions.”

“NHA commends and thanks Rep. McMorris Rodgers for her leadership in beginning a dialogue on how legislative changes can help drive investment in and expansion of this important clean energy resource while protecting environmental values. Working with her, other members of Congress, federal and state agencies, and stakeholder groups, NHA looks forward to crafting a hydro bill that is signed into law by the end of this year.”

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