



# STATEMENT

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## For Immediate Release

### **NHA Applauds House Hearing on Small Hydro**

#### *Water and Power Subcommittee looks at important energy resource*

Washington, D.C. (August 9, 2010) – The following is a statement from National Hydropower Association Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci on the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power July 29 hearing on small hydropower:

"The National Hydropower Association applauds the Subcommittee on Water and Power for holding the recent hearing on small hydropower resources. Small hydro offers some of the most promising opportunities we have in the United States for developing new clean generation from waterpower.

"As NHA member Gia Schneider, co-founder, chairman, and CEO of Natel Energy, pointed out to the Subcommittee, small hydro resources also offer a way to capture energy in locations where they would have a minimal -- if any -- environmental footprint, such as in irrigation canals, water-treatment plant outfalls, or at existing hydroelectric facilities. Many of these sites already have electricity infrastructure, minimizing cost and development impacts even more.

"But, we still need federal support to foster development of small hydro resources. Federal R&D programs, for example, can help increase the efficiency of existing technologies, improve environmental performance, and lower operational costs. New technologies can also make capturing energy from more potential sites cost effective and efficient.

"Greater intergovernmental cooperation will also be critical to maximizing small hydro's potential. We urge Congress and the Administration to build on the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers earlier this year.

"NHA thanks the Subcommittee for holding this hearing, and we encourage support for small hydro development. We stand ready to work with Congress, the Administration, and other stakeholders as we make hydropower work for America."

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