



STATEMENT

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For Immediate Release

NHA Salutes Sen. Murray and Under Secretary Johnson for Hydro Remarks *Hydro Energy, Jobs, and Environmental Benefits Focus of Washington Forum*

Washington, D.C. (December 10, 2009) – The National Hydropower Association applauds state and federal officials at the recent Washington-Oregon Clean Energy Economy Forum who expressed their support for using hydropower as a resource to help the country meet its energy, environmental, and economic goals.

"Senator Patty Murray and Under Secretary of Energy Kristina Johnson both noted hydropower's potential as a clean energy resource and as an engine for job growth," said NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocchi. "They understand that growing hydropower will help us address some of the country's most pressing issues."

Sen. Murray noted that hydropower has long helped the Pacific Northwest create jobs and build its economy, while maintaining a low level of carbon emissions as compared to the rest of the United States.

"Over half our region is served by hydropower, which is one of the cleanest forms of electricity available," she said. "The National Hydropower Association recently released a study that cited the potential to double hydro capacity and create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the nation."

Murray also pointed out that hydropower has helped the region expand its entire portfolio of renewable energy resources, by providing load firming and energy storage.

"Our region has brought online thousands of megawatts of renewable energy, primarily from wind," she said. "We've integrated those renewable resources with hydropower."

Under Secretary Johnson echoed Murray's comments about hydropower's potential to expand its contributions to the country's energy mix.

"[NHA has] done a study that has shown that, indeed, hundreds of thousands of jobs are available, and we can double the amount of hydropower in this country," Johnson said. "This is a great opportunity for us to develop clean energy."

Johnson added that opportunities for hydropower growth come through a variety of technologies, including increased efficiency, powering non-powered dams, small hydro, and ocean/tidal approaches.

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"There are 77,000 dams that are not electrified out of the 79,000 dams in this country," she said. "So, we have a lot of great opportunities, not just with conventional hydro, but with run-of-river and with [other technologies] such as wave power."

Church Ciocci said she believes these comments show the strong vision and leadership energy policymakers are demonstrating when it comes to putting hydropower to work across the country.

"Sen. Murray has seen hydropower's potential in Washington, and we applaud her efforts to craft policy that will expand these benefits across the country," Church Ciocci said. "Under Secretary Johnson's comments reflect the forward-thinking, science-based direction that the U.S. Department of Energy is taking with regard to developing our energy resources. Even more important, she's offering a vision for hydropower growth that builds clean energy resources and creates jobs.

"We salute both Sen. Patty Murray and Under Secretary Kristina Johnson for their leadership on policies that leverage hydropower's benefits for all Americans."