



PRESS RELEASE

National Hydropower Association
One Massachusetts Ave., NW
Suite 850
Washington, DC 20001
PH: (202) 682-1700
FX: (202) 682-9478

www.hydro.org

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Contact: Linda Church Ciocci
Office: (202) 682-1700 ext. 22
E-mail: linda@hydro.org

NHA applauds creation of Congressional Hydropower Caucus

Bipartisan group shows vision and leadership on energy independence through water power

- Caucus will promote and advance America's largest renewable-energy resource.
- Leaders express commitment to both new technologies and conventional hydropower resources.
- Effort will secure clean, affordable, domestic energy resources for consumers and grow "green job" opportunities for all Americans.
- NHA stands ready to work with the caucus and supports its goals.

Washington, DC (August 4, 2008) – Congress took another important step toward advancing the country's energy, environmental, and economic goals last week by announcing the creation of the Congressional Hydropower Caucus, a bipartisan group that will promote the benefits of hydropower, America's largest renewable-energy resource.

"We welcome this initiative and applaud the House members who launched this effort," said NHA executive director Linda Church Ciocci. "Their actions recognize that hydropower is – and will remain – the keystone of the country's energy mix."

Church Ciocci singled out caucus co-chairs Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) and Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE) for special praise.

"By demonstrating their commitment to hydropower, these leaders are also showing their dedication to a clean, affordable energy future," she said. "Their work also underscores the fact that new technologies and advancements are making hydropower one of the most exciting new energy options available today."

Church Ciocci noted that although hydropower has a century of achievement in providing large-scale baseload capacity through dams and reservoirs, some of the most exciting work being done in the renewable energy arena involves new water power technologies that capture energy from tides, waves, rivers, streams, and even manmade flows, like aqueducts.

According to a report last year from the Electric Power Research Institute, these new technologies, combined with new efficiencies at existing hydropower facilities, development at existing non-powered dams, and new small and low power hydro development, could double the industry's overall capacity to more than 180,000 megawatts.

“As an industry, we’re on the vanguard of renewable energy development, and we’re also an established, proven part of the energy mix. I can’t think of any other energy resource that has both a future filled with new technologies and a history of achievement,” she said.

Church Ciocci added that NHA was pleased that the Congressional Hydropower Caucus’ stated goals appear to echo many of the industry’s priorities, including recognizing hydropower’s role in integrating other renewables into the electric grid, promoting the expansion of conventional hydropower where appropriate, developing new technologies, and educating the public on the role hydropower plays in our energy mix.

“We look forward to working with the caucus to advance these important goals,” she said.

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NHA is a non-profit national association dedicated exclusively to advancing the interests of the U.S. hydropower industry, including the new waterpower technologies – ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic technologies. The association represents 61 percent of domestic, non-federal conventional hydroelectric capacity in the United States. Its membership consists of more than 140 organizations including public utilities, investor-owned utilities, independent power producers, developers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and engineering consultants, and attorneys.