



Press Release

www.hydro.org

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2007

Contact: Linda Church Ciocci

Office: (202) 682-1700 ext. 22

E-mail: linda@hydro.org

NHA Praises House Vote to Fund R&D for Hydropower and New Waterpower Technologies

Washington, DC – The House of Representatives took the first step to re-establish the Department of Energy (DOE) hydropower research and development program by passing the FY 2008 omnibus appropriations bill on December 17 by a vote of 253-154.

The bill includes \$10 million for the program, providing needed recognition of the importance of research, development and deployment activities for the continued growth of the hydropower industry. For the last several years the DOE program received zero funding. The renewed funding is a major victory for the industry and the continued growth of clean, renewable domestic energy in the U.S.

NHA commends the House, and in particular, Rep. David Obey (D-WI), chair of the Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-IN), chair of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, for their work on the omnibus bill.

According to NHA Executive Director Linda Ciocci, “Congress has taken a great step forward this week by funding and therefore reenergizing the DOE hydropower program. With the growing emphasis on expanding domestic alternative energy resources to meet climate change goals, it is vital that the country’s leading renewable energy resource receives federal funding. The \$10 million will support the on-going advanced hydropower turbine program and direct funds to explore the energy and environmental benefits of deploying new waterpower technologies.”

As part of H.R. 2764, the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008, the DOE hydropower program, now known as the **Water Power Energy R&D Program**, will receive \$10 million for research on conventional hydropower and innovative waterpower technologies, such as thermal and wave technologies, for ocean, tidal and instream-based generation. The National Hydropower Association has worked for several years advocating new and increased levels of funding for the DOE program.

#

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 U.S. 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.