



Press Release

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SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES HYDROPOWER R&D FUNDS

WASHINGTON, DC - The National Hydropower Association hailed the unanimous approval yesterday by the Senate Appropriations Committee of \$4 million to support hydropower research and development (R&D).

"Today's decision by the Committee to fund necessary and needed hydropower R&D programs sends a clear signal, that in this time of increasing energy demand, bringing more domestic, clean and renewable energy online from hydropower is a national priority," said Linda Church Ciocci, NHA executive director. "This commitment to research on advanced turbine designs and new technologies will significantly aid the development of these important advancements."

The Senate Energy and Water Appropriations bill supports the hydropower research goals outlined in Section 931 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Section 931 requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct a research program for cost competitive technologies that enable the development of new and incremental hydropower capacity. This includes continued work on the DOE's advanced hydropower turbine program, additional programs to increase environmental performance and efficiency, and support for new hydropower technologies.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill now heads to the full Senate for approval and negotiations with the House. NHA urges the Congress to sustain the funding level set by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Added Church Ciocci, "We encourage the Senate and the House to follow the lead of the Senate Appropriations Committee and approve the full \$4 million for hydropower. Without this funding valuable work will be halted, resulting in a needless delay in the deployment of new technological advancements in the hydropower industry."

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