



# STATEMENT

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## For Immediate Release

### **Administration budget sends mixed message on renewable energy deployment** *Cut to Hydropower R&D program a disappointment*

Washington, D.C. (February 14, 2011) – The following is a statement from National Hydropower Association Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci regarding President Obama’s FY 2012 budget:

“NHA applauds the Administration’s commitment in the budget to extend key renewable energy programs, including Section 1603 grants in lieu of tax credits and the 48C manufacturing tax credit. However, we are disappointed that other important hydropower programs did not receive the same support.

“The hydropower industry recently expressed strong support for the President’s 80 percent goal for clean and renewable energy, but without a significant role for hydropower, achieving that goal will prove difficult, if not impossible.

“The Department of Energy’s (DOE) waterpower research and development program, which supports deployment of conventional, pumped storage, and marine and hydrokinetic projects, is targeted for a funding reduction of over 20 percent from FY 2010 levels. Frankly, NHA is surprised that the renewable energy resource that offers the greatest promise in meeting the President’s clean energy goal is the only renewable electricity program to receive a cut, while the other renewable programs received significant increases, some even doubling. This disparity is surprising as the DOE’s overall budget for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs increased a substantial 70 percent under the FY 2012 proposal.

“Affordable, available and reliable hydropower has the potential to double its contribution to America’s electricity supply over the next two decades, creating more than a million American jobs. Realizing this growth, and achieving the President’s goal, however, depends on continued investment in policies that support the hydropower resource. Unfortunately, the Administration’s DOE Waterpower R&D budget is out of step with the President’s vision for clean energy deployment.

“NHA stands ready to work with the Administration and with Congress to restore funding to the DOE waterpower program and adopt policies needed to propel the hydropower industry forward and help meet our country’s clean energy goals.”

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