



STATEMENT

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For Immediate Release

President's hydropower R&D budget request undercuts renewable energy growth

DOE Water Power Program faces 66 percent cut

Washington, D.C. (February 13, 2012) – The following is a statement from Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on the release of President Barack Obama's budget proposal:

"President Obama's budget proposal today fails to unlock the tremendous potential of hydropower and MHK technologies by slashing funding for the Department of Energy's Water Power Program. R&D support for conventional hydropower was particularly hard hit.

"The hydropower industry has the potential to create hundreds of thousands of jobs and the low-cost clean energy that Americans need. With the right policies in place, hydropower stands to create 1.4 million cumulative jobs and add 60,000 MW of new capacity by 2025.

"The Water Power Program's work is critical to realizing that potential. To date, it has yielded a roadmap that will facilitate rapid and sustainable hydropower development.

"The program's work is far from complete. The past few years of investment developing more efficient and environmentally-friendly turbines, reducing the costs of small hydropower technology, and promoting the integration of variable energy resources, will be wasted if Congress enacts this budget proposal.

"NHA supports the President's goal to achieve 80 percent of the country's electricity from clean energy sources by 2035, but today he severely undercut his own objectives by reducing water power research and development.

"Now is not the time to cut investment in technologies that can help create America's 21st-century economy. We call on President Obama to recognize the central role that hydropower can play in our nation's future."

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