



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

### **Bipartisan hydropower legislation clears House of Representatives** *“Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act” would boost hydropower development, create jobs*

Washington, D.C. (July 9, 2012) – The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the “Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012” to improve the regulatory framework for hydropower development and help unlock thousands of megawatts of clean, renewable electricity while creating jobs across the country. The legislation was championed by Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Diana DeGette (D-CO).

The Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012 removes small conduit projects from FERC jurisdiction; allows more small projects to qualify for the exemption process; directs the Energy Department to study the role of pumped storage hydropower for integrating intermittent renewables; and directs FERC to examine the feasibility of a two-year licensing process for certain low-impact hydropower projects, such as converting existing non-powered dams.

“I applaud the House of Representatives for moving so quickly on this legislation that would expand the supply of clean, reliable electricity in the United States,” said Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association (NHA). “The industry appreciates the hard work of Reps. McMorris Rodgers and DeGette on this legislation and urges the Senate to take immediate action to deliver supportive hydropower legislation to the President’s desk.”

“I’m so proud to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to celebrate the passage of this bill,” said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers. “In Eastern Washington, hydropower plays a pivotal role – whether it’s conventional, small, or conduit hydro – it provides 75 percent of electricity to the Pacific Northwest and represents a unique opportunity for job creation and energy production. It’s clean, green, renewable and affordable. The future of American energy independence depends on the development of an ‘all of the above’ energy approach – and I’m proud that hydro is finally on its way to being part of it.”

“For a state like Colorado, and indeed the entire nation, this bipartisan legislation will expand renewable and affordable hydropower – far and away our Nation’s largest source of clean energy – and create good jobs for American families,” said Rep. Diana DeGette.

The Department of Energy recently found over 12,000 MW of untapped potential at the nation’s existing non-powered dams. Bringing that untapped potential online would create approximately 60,000 jobs in an industry that already employs more than 300,000 Americans. NHA’s “Hydro Industry

Supply Chain Snapshot” shows more than 2,500 companies that support the industry across the U.S., including in the South and Industrial Midwest.

Currently, the licensing of a hydropower project can take up to five years, excluding construction. Other power generation source, like wind and natural gas, have shorter time frames. This puts hydropower at a competitive disadvantage when securing investment.

Similar legislation, the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2011, which was co-sponsored by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on a voice vote in April 2011.

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