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For Immediate Release

Bipartisan Hydropower Licensing Modernization Amendment Passes out of House Energy and Commerce Committee

Bill provisions will help realize hydropower's clean energy potential and climate benefits

Washington, D.C. (September 30, 2015) – The National Hydropower Association today applauded the passage of a bipartisan amendment offered by Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Jerry McNerney (D-CA) to modernize hydropower's outdated licensing process. The amendment, which was attached to HR.8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act, contains a suite of provisions to make the approval process more timely, coherent and collaborative —all while protecting modern environmental requirements.

“Realizing hydropower's clean energy potential can't be accomplished without bringing the licensing process into the 21st century, and this bipartisan amendment achieves that goal while protecting environment values,” **said Linda Church Ciocci, NHA Executive Director.** “Delays and a lack of coordination in the process can cause the permitting the nation's largest source of renewable energy to take a decade or longer. NHA applauds Reps. McMorris Rodgers and McNerney for their leadership and recognition of hydropower's climate benefits.”

Passage of HR.8 out of committee follows the July passage of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015. The Senate bill also contains several key elements to improve the hydropower licensing process. Both measures will now head to the floor of their respective chambers for full consideration.

“Improving the hydropower licensing process has received support from both sides of the aisle on both side of the Capitol. While today brings us one step closer to helping the nation fight climate change, we will continue working with all stakeholders toward a final bill that preserves the existing hydro system, promotes new development, and protects environmental values,” **said Ciocci.**

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