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For Immediate Release

U.S. Senate Sends Bipartisan Energy Bill to Conference

Bill contains provisions to modernize the hydropower licensing process

Washington, D.C. (July 12, 2016) – The following is a statement from Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on the decision of the Senate to appoint conferees and proceed to a conference committee with the House of Representatives on the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 (S.2012):

“Proceeding to a conference on the House and Senate versions of the energy bill brings the nation one step closer to fully realizing hydropower’s clean energy potential and its contribution to a reliable and functioning electric grid system.

“The energy bills shine a light on an outdated hydropower regulatory process - one that can take projects up to a decade or longer to complete. The bipartisan provisions included in the bills seek to add predictability and increase coordination and timeliness of the process - all while protecting environmental values.

“NHA applauds the leadership of Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) for advancing the Senate effort on the legislation.

“Already the nation’s largest renewable electricity resource, hydropower can undoubtedly play an even greater role in addressing climate change and expanding our clean energy portfolio. NHA will continue working with all parties to put a bill on the President’s desk this year that enhances the existing hydro system, protects the environment and promotes responsible new development.”

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