



March 17, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0203

Dear Senator Murkowski:

The National Hydropower Association (NHA) writes in strong support of your legislation, the "Hydropower Improvement Act of 2011." NHA commends your leadership and applauds your continuing support of the hydropower resource. There is much at stake and immediate passage of this bill is needed to help fully realize hydropower's role as an affordable, reliable, available and sustainable domestic energy technology.

For over a hundred years, hydropower, America's leading renewable electricity resource, has served as the foundation for our nation's growth. With the potential to double its contribution, expanding our hydropower resources is key to achieving the vision of a clean energy future.

At a time when bipartisan collaboration is essential to solving our energy challenges, no clean energy resource has more multi-region and bipartisan support than hydropower, as is evidenced by the list of co-sponsors on this bill. Policymakers from both sides of the aisle recognize the central role that hydropower has played, and will continue to play, in meeting our nation's job creation and affordable energy goals.

Every state in the union is already home to hydropower projects, hydro equipment manufacturing plants, companies that benefit from the hydropower supply chain and consumers who enjoy hydro's lower electricity costs. This job-sustaining sector of our economy has the potential for huge growth, and we applaud your commitment, and that of the co-sponsors, to realize this growth.

We look forward to working with you, original co-sponsors Senators Begich, Bingaman, Cantwell, Crapo, Murray, Risch, Whitehouse, Wyden and others to pass this legislation, as well as to enact additional tax and other incentives and policies needed to stimulate development of the country's untapped hydropower resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Church Ciocci".

Linda Church Ciocci  
Executive Director