

July 19, 2010

To the U.S. Congress,

Events on the Gulf Coast have refocused attention on the need for U.S. energy policy to expand the deployment of clean energy technologies. Hydropower, America's largest clean, renewable electricity resource stands ready to contribute. The U.S. hydropower industry is poised to double capacity, creating new economic opportunities and jobs in every state – more than 1.4 million in total -- and support growth throughout the renewable energy sector.

Legislation is needed immediately that emphasizes and supports development of hydropower resources, such as maximizing our existing hydro system and non-powered infrastructure; new ocean, tidal and in-stream hydrokinetic technologies; as well as hydropower pumped storage. What's more, we can build this future without the need to embark on a new national dam building campaign.

For the hydropower industry it is critical Congress pass a bill that:

1. Ensures continued investment in hydropower projects through extension and expansion of incentives (Section 1603 grants, PTC, ITC, and CREBs).
2. Provides equal treatment in support of hydropower development such as PTC parity and incentives for pumped storage projects.
3. Sends a clear market signal in support of hydropower by adopting an RES that includes incremental hydro, retrofitting existing non-powered dams, and hydrokinetics, while recognizing the clean air benefits of existing hydro resources.
4. Speeds construction and job creation benefits through better coordination of regulatory processes for development on federal lands and a smarter, more efficient process for minimal-impact projects at existing dams and closed-loop pumped storage.
5. Support advancements in the industry with increased funding for the DOE Waterpower R&D program.

Now is the time to stand up for hydropower and for America's working families. The stakes are too high to miss this opportunity to build a clean energy future based on domestic, reliable, renewable resources like hydropower.

Sincerely,

Advanced Hydro Solutions

ALLETE / Minnesota Power

Alstom Power, Inc.

Ameren UE

American Electric Power

American Hydro

American Municipal Power

Avista Corp.

Brookfield Renewable Power

Chelan County Public Utility District

Eagle Crest Energy Company

Grant County Public Utility District

HCI Partners

HDR | DTA

Hydro Green Energy

Kleinschmidt Associates

Mead and Hunt

MWH Americas, Inc.

Natel Energy

NextEra Energy Resources

North American Hydro

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Santee Cooper

Snohomish County Public Utility District

Steel-Fab, Inc.

Voith Hydro