

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The undersigned companies and organizations support the following letter on your Committees' work on hydropower regulatory improvements and the need to include such provisions as part of the comprehensive energy bills under development.

**Now is the time for Congress to act on hydropower.**

Hydropower is the single largest source of renewable, emissions-free electricity in the United States today. In fact, hydropower provides 50 percent of all renewable electricity generation. In return, communities across the country served by hydropower benefit from cleaner air, lower electricity costs and more reliable service.

Yet, these benefits are at risk as hydropower projects coming up for relicensing, and new project development, are stymied and delayed by inefficient, duplicative and lengthy approval processes. Hydropower licensing regularly takes years to complete, much longer than other energy options. Not only are projects themselves delayed, but so are the environmental enhancements project owners agree to implement as part of the approval process.

The status quo is unacceptable.

Right now, proposals for new capacity are at levels not seen in many years, with studies showing tremendous additional growth potential. In addition, nearly 500 existing hydropower projects - constituting nearly 30 percent of all hydropower capacity regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - will require reauthorization over the next 15 years.

Congress is currently working on legislation to address the issues in the hydropower licensing process that add unnecessary costs and delays. Our companies and organizations encourage and support this

work. We urge both the House and Senate to include provisions to improve the hydropower licensing process as part of their comprehensive energy bills this year.

Improvements to hydropower licensing can be accomplished in a manner that preserves the existing system, promotes new development, and also protects our fisheries, natural resources and environmental values.

Sincerely,

Advanced Hydro Solutions	Alaska Power Association
Alstom Renewable Power	American Council on Renewable Energy
American Municipal Power Inc.	American Public Power Association
Andritz Hydro	Arizona Westside Irrigation and Electrical Districts
Avista Utilities	The Bowersock Mills & Power Co.
Business Council for Sustainable Energy	Chelan County Public Utility District
Chugach Electric	City of King Cove
Consumers Energy	Copper Valley Electric Association
Dominion	Duke Energy
Edison Electric Institute	Enel Green Power North America, Inc.
Energy New England	FirstLight Power Resources, Inc.
Grand River Dam Authority	Grant County Public Utility District
HDR	Idaho Power
Large Public Power Council	Mavel Americas, Inc.
Minnesota Power	Missouri River Energy Services
Modesto Irrigation District	MWH
National Hydropower Association	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Nebraska Public Power District	Nelson Energy
New Hampshire Electric Cooperative	Northeast Public Power Association
Northern California Power Agency	Northwest Public Power Association
Northwestern Energy	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Santee Cooper	Seattle City Light
Southeast Alaska Power Agency	Southeast Conference
Southern California Edison	Southern California Public Power Authority
Southern Company	Snohomish County Public Utility District
Spaulding Consultants	Tacoma Power
Turlock Irrigation District	Voith
Whoosh Innovations	