



OCEAN RENEWABLE
ENERGY COALITION



March 23, 2011

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Energy and Water Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Rogers, Dicks, Frelinghuysen, and Visclosky:

The Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition (OREC) and the National Hydropower Association (NHA) write in strong support of increased funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE) waterpower program. Together, our organizations represent over 220 companies, universities, utilities, and non-profit organizations pursuing project and technology development opportunities across the waterpower sector, including marine and hydrokinetic (MHK), conventional hydropower, pumped storage and conduit power.

The DOE program is critical to support advancements in technology research and project deployment. Our members see tremendous benefit from the program's many activities and initiatives. As such, we jointly recommend the program be funded at a level of \$100 million, split equally between its two main technology areas – MHK and conventional hydro/pumped storage.

Even as new studies document significant near-term and long-term growth opportunities, historically, the DOE waterpower program has been substantially underfunded. Though our organizations and members greatly appreciate the increase in funding that has occurred in recent years, the program remains the smallest of the renewable energy programs.

The Administration and Congress are examining policies to significantly increase generation from clean and renewable energy resources. Those goals will be difficult, if not impossible, to reach unless there is strong, sustained support to realize the untapped growth potential from all waterpower resources, which is the purpose of the DOE program.

As with the funding proposed for all of the other DOE renewable programs, now is the time to invest in the waterpower program, not retreat. The program is currently slated for a cut from FY 2010 enacted levels, while substantial increases are proposed for wind, solar, biomass and geothermal.

We urge your support for increased funding to the waterpower program to ensure important initiatives currently underway continue, and to provide the program with the resources to expand and meet new R&D challenges and provide greater support to project deployment activities.
Sincerely,



Sean O'Neill
OREC President



Linda Church Ciocci
NHA Executive Director