



**OCEAN RENEWABLE
ENERGY COALITION**
The Marine and Hydrokinetic Energy
Trade Association

July 16, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Level for DOE Water Power Program

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Feinstein and Alexander:

As Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association (NHA) and President of the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition (OREC), we are writing to express our appreciation and commend you for your committees' continued support for the research and development activities of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Water Power Program. We understand the difficult choices you face in these fiscally challenging times, and are encouraged that you see value in the development of our water power resources which have the potential to provide fifteen percent of U.S. electricity generation by 2030.

Both of our organizations strongly support the work of the Water Power Program and believe that the 66 percent cut from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 funding level proposed in the President's FY 2013 budget request would decimate the program's R&D agenda and other initiatives to support growth in the hydropower, pumped storage and marine and hydrokinetic (MHK) renewable energy sectors. We are, therefore, very grateful for the increased water power funding levels that were included in both the Senate and House FY 2013 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bills.

As you work in the coming months to address the differences between the Senate and House FY 2013 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bills, NHA and OREC reiterate our joint support of an overall program funding level of \$59 million – **representing no increase in the funding level from FY 2012.**

Our organizations also remain committed that the DOE program supports all sectors of the water power industry. As you reconcile the report language for the individual technology programs in a final conference agreement later this year, we believe at least \$39 million for MHK and \$20 million for

conventional hydropower provides funding at a level adequate to support ongoing research and development efforts and also allows opportunities for additional initiatives and activities needed to hasten deployment of new water power electricity generation capabilities.

Unlocking the vast potential of our rivers, oceans, tides, currents and conduits requires funding the R&D initiatives that make innovative ideas a reality. The DOE Water Power Program is an important source of support for the researchers, scientists, project developers and owners working to grow the industry's contribution to our country's clean energy resources. Continued investment in this program ensures that innovative new technologies and operational advancements come to market, increasing America's clean energy portfolio and providing the economic benefits and jobs the country needs.

Thank you again for your strong support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or to further discuss the exciting benefits of water power.

Sincerely,



Linda Church Ciocci
NHA Executive Director



Sean O'Neill
OREC President