



National Hydropower Association

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The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 21, 2011

Dear Senator Bingaman:

On behalf of the National Hydropower Association (NHA), we write to thank you and commend your leadership as an original co-sponsor of the “Hydropower Improvement Act of 2011.” NHA greatly appreciates your steadfast support of hydropower – America’s leading domestic renewable electricity resource.

There is much at stake and immediate passage of this legislation is needed to help fully realize hydropower’s energy, environmental and economic benefits.

This bill sends a vital message regarding the opportunities to grow the hydropower resource. It includes provisions to make existing hydro resources more efficient, convert existing dams to renewable energy-generating resources (only 3 percent of the country’s 80,000 dams are utilized to generate hydropower), and support small hydro, conduit, and pumped storage project development. It also looks to the future by providing for federal R&D initiatives, ensuring that, as a country, we can continue to bring new waterpower technologies to market.

Once again, NHA and the hydropower industry applaud your strong support of hydropower as the principal domestic source of affordable, reliable and clean energy, as well as its potential to create jobs and economic opportunities in every state.

We commit to working with you and the other co-sponsors to pass this legislation, as well as to enact additional incentives and policies to stimulate development of the country’s untapped hydropower resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J. Munro".

Andrew Munro, Grant PUD (WA)
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Church Ciocci".

Linda Church Ciocci
Executive Director