



National Hydropower Association

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May 12, 2011

The Honorable Adrian Smith
United States House of Representatives
503 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith,

The National Hydropower Association writes in support of your bipartisan legislation, H.R. 795, the Small-Scale Hydropower Enhancement Act of 2011. This bill would remove from jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission small conduit power projects under 1.5 MW. The bill also authorizes a federal study of potential from small projects under 1 MW.

NHA believes small hydropower and conduit development is an important resource in meeting future energy demand, one that is underutilized in the United States. In addition, data on the growth potential of these projects is needed, particularly conduit projects for which no national study has been conducted.

The projects contemplated by this bill are low-impact, utilizing existing man-made channels and structures. NHA supports policies that reduce costs and delays in bringing new hydropower generation online, while ensuring public participation and that environmental standards are met.

While this bill would remove FERC oversight of these projects, they would continue to be subject to state regulation and meet the requirements of federal and state environmental laws. In this case, the balance struck seems appropriate; however, NHA would also recommend that the Committee examine other approaches to facilitate development in cases where removing FERC jurisdiction is not the best course of action.

NHA thanks you and the other co-sponsors for your continued support of hydropower and is happy to discuss the bill further with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Church Ciocci".

Linda Church Ciocci
Executive Director