

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and  
Minority Leader Reid:

The 127 undersigned companies and organizations write to express our support for hydropower, the nation's largest renewable electricity resource, and advancing the bipartisan work underway in both the House and Senate to modernize the hydropower regulatory process.

Hydropower is critical to reducing carbon emissions and meeting our nation's climate goals. It is the single largest source of renewable, emissions-free electricity in the United States. Not only does it provide close to 50 percent of all renewable electricity generation, hydropower also provides flexible generation, energy storage, load following and base-load power. It both facilitates the integration of intermittent renewable sources and helps ensure electric grid reliability.

Hydropower provides many benefits to the communities it serves across the country, such as cleaner air, greater public recreational opportunities, community improvements, lower electricity costs, more reliable service, and valued economic activity and employment opportunities.

Yet, maintaining and expanding these substantial benefits is at risk as existing hydropower projects undergoing relicensing and new projects under development are stymied and delayed by inefficient, duplicative and lengthy approval processes. Hydropower authorization - whether for existing or new projects - regularly takes many years to complete, much longer than other energy options.

**The need for improvements in hydropower licensing is real and pressing for both existing and new projects.**

Hydropower is an invaluable resource - and it is one that our country can do, and should do, more to enhance. Right now, proposals for new capacity are at levels not seen in many years, with studies showing tremendous additional growth potential. In addition, nearly 400 existing

hydropower projects - constituting over 35 percent of all current hydropower capacity regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - will require reauthorization over the next 15 years.

Addressing the regulatory inefficiencies for hydropower projects is critical if we are serious about addressing our national energy challenges. The hydropower industry is fully committed to addressing these challenges in a way that promotes clean, renewable hydropower while enhancing our nation's rivers and other natural resources, reducing environmental impacts, and providing for recreation and other public values.

In an "all of the above" energy strategy, hydropower is, and must continue to be, an indispensable resource to reduce carbon emissions and provide flexible electricity production. We strongly support the bipartisan efforts in the House and Senate to modernize hydropower licensing to ensure that it is consistent with current and long-term national clean energy needs - all while keeping in place the environmental protections and other benefits that we agree are critical.

Sincerely,

A. Philip Randolph Institute Western Region

Accel Group LLC

Advanced Hydro Solutions

Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona

Alaska Power Association

Allete / Minnesota Power

Ameren Missouri

American Governor

American Municipal Power, Inc.

American Public Power Association

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

Avista Corp

Azusa Light & Water

Bowersock Mills and Power Company

Business Council for Sustainable Energy

California Black Chamber of Commerce

California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

California Municipal Utilities Association  
Centennial Island Hydroelectric  
Central Valley Opportunity Center  
Chelan County PUD  
CMS Energy  
Colorado River Water Conservation District  
Colorado River Energy Distributors Association  
Cordova Electric Cooperative  
Crisp County Power Commission  
Cube Hydro  
Czech Tech Investments LLC  
Dominion  
Duke Energy Corporation  
Eagle Creek Renewable Energy  
Edison Electric Institute  
El Concilio of San Mateo County  
Enel Green Power North America, Inc.  
Energy Efficiency Council, Inc.  
Family Farm Alliance  
GE Renewable Energy  
Grand River Dam Authority  
Grant PUD  
HeliosAltas Corp  
HDR  
Hispanics in Energy  
Hyundai Ideal Electric  
Hydro Consulting & Maintenance Services, Inc.  
Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association  
Idaho Power

Imperial Irrigation District  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers  
Jordan Hydroelectric Limited Partnership  
Kaukauna Utilities  
Kleinschmidt  
Kodiak Electric Association  
La Coperativa Campesina de California  
Large Public Power Council  
Loup River Public Power District  
Mavel Americas, Inc.  
Mead & Hunt  
Merced Irrigation District  
Methuen Falls Hydroelectric  
Michigan Municipal Electric Association  
Mid-West Electric Consumers Association  
Midwest Hydro Users Group  
Missouri River Energy Services  
Modesto Irrigation District  
Montana Electric Cooperatives Association  
Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma  
MWH  
National Hydropower Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Water Resources Association  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Nelson Energy  
New York Association of Public Power

Noah Corp  
North America's Building Trades Unions  
North Central Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Northeast Public Power Association  
Northern California Power Agency  
Northern Wasco County People's Utility District  
Northwest Hydroelectric Association  
Northwest Irrigation Utilities  
Northwest Pipe Company  
Northwest Public Power Association  
Northwest Requirements Utilities  
Northwest RiverPartners  
Ohio Municipal Electric Association  
Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority  
Olson Electric Development  
Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association  
Oregon People's Utility District Association  
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Pasadena Water and Power  
Port of Chelan County  
PNGC Power  
Proteus, Inc.  
Public Power Council  
Redwood Community Action Agency  
Riverside Inc.  
Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana  
Sabine River Authority of Texas  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

San Diego County Water Authority  
Santee Cooper  
Southeast Alaska Power Agency  
Southern California Edison  
Southern California Public Power Authority  
Southern Company  
South Sutter Water District  
Spaulding Consultants  
Summit Global Hydro, LLC  
Tacoma Power  
The Latino Coalition  
Toledo Bend Project Joint Operation  
TransCanada  
Turlock Irrigation District  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters  
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems  
Voith Hydro, Inc.  
Washington Public Utility Districts Association  
Washington Rural Electric Co-op Association  
Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Weir American Hydro  
WV Hydro, Inc.

cc: Sen. John Cornyn, Majority Whip  
Sen. Richard Durbin, Minority Whip  
Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Sen. Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Rep. Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader  
Rep. Steve Scalise, Majority Whip  
Rep. Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip  
Rep. Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Rep. Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce