



January 13, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Hydropower Association, I write to you today urging strong support in your FY 2013 budget request for the Department of Energy Waterpower research and development program.

Specifically, NHA supports, at a minimum, the continuation of the congressionally-approved FY 2012 funding level of \$59 million for the program (\$25 million for hydropower and \$34 million for marine and hydrokinetic technologies.)

As America's leading renewable electricity resource, hydropower currently provides approximately 8 percent of our nation's total electricity supply and two thirds of America's renewable electricity. Recent studies have demonstrated tremendous growth potential in the tens of thousands of megawatts across the waterpower sector – hydropower, pumped storage and MHK technologies.

NHA supports your goal to achieve 80 percent of our country's electricity from clean energy resources by 2035. However, for such a policy to succeed, recognition and support for increasing generation from all waterpower resources, conventional and new, is critical.

Unlocking the vast hydropower potential of our rivers, oceans, tides 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 will ensure 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.

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact me or NHA's Jeffrey A. Leahey, Director of Government Affairs, at 202.682.1700 x15.

Sincerely,



Linda Church Ciocci
Executive Director

Cc: Steven Chu, Energy Secretary
Heather Zichal, Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate
Henry Kelly, Acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Steven Chalk, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Renewable Energy
Jose Zayas, Wind and Water Power Program Manager
Mike Reed, Water Power Team Lead
Sally Ericsson, OMB Program Associate Director for Natural Resources, Energy
and Science
Kevin Carroll, OMB Energy Branch Chief
Edward Etzkorn, OMB Program Examiner for Energy Efficiency Renewable Energy