

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to ask your support of robust funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) in the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Development Appropriations legislation.

The United States has significant under-deployed water power resources, from non-powered dams, pumped storage and conduits to waves, ocean currents and tidal flows. Commercialization of new advanced water power systems to capture these resources represents a substantial opportunity for the United States to lead the world in an emerging area of energy production while also stimulating a broad range of job-creating industries.

Although hydropower is one of the most affordable and reliable renewable electricity resources, more can be done to significantly expand generation from this resource. For example, only three percent of the 80,000 dams in the United States currently generate electricity. The 2016 Hydropower Vision Report, developed by industry and DOE, offers pathways, including development of advanced water power technologies, for tapping into hydropower's potential to increase installed capacity by nearly 50 GW by 2050.


Marine energy converters use advanced, pre-commercial technologies to generate electricity from waves, currents, tides and in-river resources, and has the potential to become a major source of electricity for the United States and the world. The majority of the U.S. population lives adjacent to significant water power resources, which reduces transmission costs and environmental consequences. Marine energy technologies also facilitate newly emerging market opportunities off the grid, such as recharging various unmanned underwater vehicles and providing power during disaster recovery efforts.

Robust funding for the DOE Water Power Technologies Office will support investments in high-risk, early-stage technologies that the private sector is unable to address on its own. Continued investments by DOE in private-sector led technology advancement will accelerate deployment of new water power technologies, give confidence to investors, and reduce our nation's dependence on foreign suppliers. In addition, a growing U.S. water power industry will advance our national economic goals by creating high-quality employment, increasing long-term production in


shipyards, expanding development of fleets of vessels for deployment and servicing, and strengthening the thousands of businesses that make up the U.S. industrial supply chain.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development support funding DOE's Water Power Technologies Office at a robust level for Fiscal Year 2019. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Scott Perry
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
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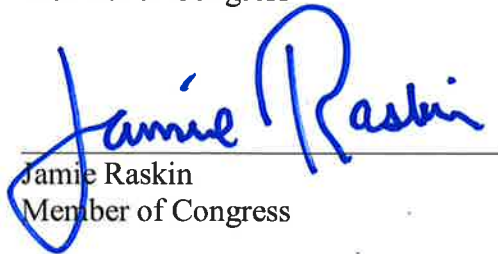
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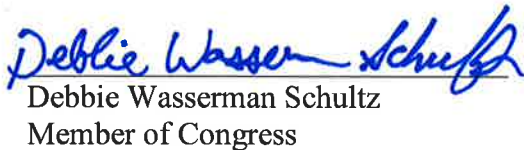
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