

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232
United States Capitol

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107
United States Capitol

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable David Scott
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Space, Science, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Chairs Neal, DeFazio, Grijalva, Pallone, Scott and Johnson:

As you work on historic reconciliation legislation to help our nation Build Back Better, we encourage you to include funding to rehabilitate, retrofit, and remove the nation's dams as outlined in the Twenty-First Century Dams Act to increase renewable energy production and electricity storage through hydropower including pumped storage, and mitigate the impacts of climate change by improving dam safety and the health of our nation's rivers.

Hydropower is a proven energy technology and provides the United States with more than seven percent of its electricity. As the United States moves towards a variable, distributed energy grid, protecting and expanding hydropower resources will help prevent blackouts and improve electric reliability. By including a tax credit to support generation, grid flexibility, safety, and environmental upgrades at America's hydropower dams as envisioned in the Twenty-First Century Dams Act, Congress can help put America on the path to meet the President's goal of 80 percent clean electricity generation by 2030.

There are nearly 6,000 "high-hazard" dams across the country with poor, unsatisfactory, or unknown safety ratings that would pose a threat to human life should they fail. The nation's

high hazard dams have an estimated \$22 billion repair backlog. To ensure our nation's dam infrastructure can withstand the impacts of climate change induced extreme weather events, this repair backlog must be addressed. We encourage you to provide funding to rehabilitate dams as envisioned by the Twenty-First Century Dams Act to improve dam safety and resiliency.

There are also ample opportunities to remove unnecessary dams that no longer provide benefits to society, have safety issues that cannot be cost-effectively mitigated, or have significant and longstanding adverse environmental impacts that cannot be fully mitigated. Dam removals, where appropriate, can restore the natural functions of rivers and return extirpated and endangered fish species to rivers. Removing obsolete dams can also address long-standing environmental justice issues facing tribal and other disenfranchised communities by restoring natural and cultural resources. As climate change places additional stress on river ecosystems, removing outdated dams will help improve watershed resilience. We encourage you to include funding for dam removal as envisioned by the Twenty-First Century Dams Act to help the nation realize the benefits of healthy rivers.

Reconciliation is an important opportunity to make investments to address climate change and improve the resilience of our nation's infrastructure. By including funding to rehabilitate, retrofit, and remove dams as outlined in the Twenty-First Century Dams Act, Congress can help achieve these goals while creating jobs for American workers and pursuing environmental justice priorities.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

/s/

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

/s/

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

/s/

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier
Member of Congress

/s/

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

/s/

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

/s/

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

/s/
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

/s/
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/
John Larson
Member of Congress

/s/
Andre Carson
Member of Congress

/s/
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

/s/
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

/s/
Jerry McNearney
Member of Congress

/s/
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

/s/
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

/s/
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress