



May 18, 2023

Chairman Joe Manchin  
 Senate Energy &  
 Natural Resources Committee  
 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member John Barrasso  
 Senate Energy &  
 Natural Resources Committee  
 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

As representatives of the hydropower industry, the environmental community, and tribal nations, we are pleased to support S. 1521, the Community and Hydropower Improvement Act of 2023, bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senator Daines (R-MT) and Senator Cantwell (D-WA).

Our organizations have been working collaboratively for several years to develop a consensus on improvements to the hydropower licensing, relicensing, and license surrender process that provide greater certainty for the industry while enhancing the health of river ecosystems and respecting the rights of tribes. We believe S. 1521 reflects and encompasses these shared goals.

As outlined in the May 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to you from former Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairmen Bay and Chatterjee and former Commissioners Clark and Moeller, significant reforms are needed to the hydropower regulatory process. We believe S. 1521 will increase efficiencies and inter-agency coordination; reduce redundancies and duplication of work; promote transparency; and reduce costs, while also promoting tribal self-determination and environmental stewardship.

S. 1521 will allow the United States to more fully realize the environmental, social, and economic benefits of healthy rivers, tribal sovereignty, and hydropower production. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to advance this legislation and urge the Congress to move expeditiously to adopt a licensing reform package this year.

Signed,

American Rivers  
American River Outfitters Association  
American Whitewater  
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance  
California Outdoors  
Friends of the River  
Gravity Renewables  
Idaho Rivers United  
Natel Energy  
National Congress of American Indians  
Nelson Energy  
National Hydropower Association  
Rye Development  
Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Union of Concerned Scientists