

July 10, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned companies and associations strongly support the hydropower regulatory improvement bills currently awaiting action by the full Senate – H.R. 267 and H.R. 678 and their Senate companion bills, S. 545 and S. 306.

As such, we urge you now to move to final Senate passage without delay.

These hydropower bills have received overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. Yet despite this strong showing of support from both parties, no action has been taken on the bills since they were reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on May 13, almost two months ago.

The bills are non-controversial and are a model of cooperation between industry and non-governmental organizations, as well as between the two parties, to develop consensus public policy.

The regulatory improvements contained in these bills will allow more low-impact hydropower projects, particularly small projects and conduits, to be approved in an expedited manner, while continuing to ensure appropriate environmental review and public participation.

Hydropower is America's largest renewable electricity resource. The immediate passage of these bills will help to add more hydroelectric capacity to the nation's electricity portfolio, producing significant job creation, energy and environmental benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Companies

Accel Group LLC
Advanced Hydro Solutions LLC
Alstom, Inc.
Ameren
American Municipal Power
Applegate Group, Inc.
Avista Corp.
The Bowersock Mills and Power Company
Boyce Hydro, LLC
Cascade Hydro

Chelan County Public Utility District
Consumers Energy
CzechTech Investments LLC
Duke Energy Corporation
Free Flow Power Corporation
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Hydro Green Energy
Hydro Performance Processes Inc.
Grant County Public Utility District
Kleinschmidt Associates
Mavel Americas
Mavel, a.s.
Mead & Hunt
Minnesota Power
Missouri River Energy Services
MWH
Northern California Power Agency
Northern Illinois Hydropower
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Portland General Electric
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Santee Cooper
Seattle City Light
Snowmass Energy LLC
Southern Company
Tacoma Power
Telluride Energy
Voith

Associations

American Council on Renewable Energy
American Public Power Association
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Colorado Small Hydro Association
Edison Electric Institute
Family Farm Alliance
Granite State Hydropower Association
Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona
Large Public Power Council
Midwest Hydro Users Group
National Hydropower Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Water Resources Association
Northwest Hydroelectric Association
Oregon Water Resources Congress