

**National Water Resources Association
National Hydropower Association
American Public Power Association
Family Farm Alliance
Oregon Water Resources Congress
Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Irrigation and Electrical Districts' Association of Arizona**

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural
Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Senate Energy & Natural
Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wyden and Murkowski:

We are writing to you today to thank you for scheduling the Committee's April 23rd hearing on small hydropower legislation and to reiterate our unqualified support for H.R. 267 and H.R. 678. We believe that passage of these bills by the House puts this important renewable energy program on the verge of success. We are confident that your Committee's early attention to this program will result in a jump start for small hydropower development not only in the West but the throughout the country.

We also want to thank you for introducing S. 545, the companion to H.R. 267, and to compliment Senators Barrasso, Risch, Enzi and Crapo for introduction of S. 306 which mirrors H.R. 678 as introduced. These two Senate bills send a strong signal of support for an enhanced, vibrant small hydropower program.

H.R. 267, spearheaded by Representatives McMorris-Rogers and DeGette, is the product of intense and detailed negotiations, the success of which need only be demonstrated by the unanimous consent with which the bill was passed in the House.

H.R. 678, introduced by Representative Tipton with key support from Representatives Gosar and Costa, as well as from the leadership and other members of the House Natural Resources Committee, likewise has received close scrutiny. Its predecessor, H.R. 2842, passed the House in the last Congress and received a hearing in your Water and Power Subcommittee. Relying on the lessons learned during that effort, H.R. 678 responded to ideas and suggestions put forth previously and since its introduction. The success of that effort, once again, is reflected in its passage in the House by a 416-7 vote on April 10th.

Together, these two bills combine to legislate a small hydropower development program Congress can point to with pride. H.R. 267 gives the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the tools it needs to streamline its statutory program for small hydropower development. H.R. 678 provides a statutory framework missing from its existing authorities for the companion program of the Bureau of Reclamation. And, both bills accomplish this task while retaining the necessary environmental safeguards that will ensure careful implementation of this newly directed initiative.

Recent improvements in the technology for installing small hydropower units in existing facilities have dramatically increased the attractiveness of this clean, renewable electric generation option. H.R. 267 and H.R. 678 offer the streamlining of governmental process that will provide the incentive for employing it.

Thank you again for your demonstrated interest in small hydropower development. We look forward to working with you on this important program and urge quick action on these bills.

Respectfully submitted:

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