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## NHA's Messages to the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Value Hydropower and its Role in Addressing U.S. Energy, Economic, Environmental and Security Goals

Congress is urged to act on the following **Policy Recommendations**:

- 1. Provide for a more efficient regulatory process for hydropower licensing, both new and existing projects.** NHA seeks meaningful improvements to the licensing and regulation of hydropower projects, modernizing the process while preserving environmental standards. Improvements should provide accountability, transparency, increase cost-effectiveness, and better the coordination between federal and state agencies involved in the regulation of hydropower projects.
- 2. Provide continued tax policies that incentivize the growth of hydropower, pumped storage and marine energy resources.** Existing tax treatments, such as the PTC, ITC, CREBs and others, provide a predictable market signal, which in turn leverages private investment, stimulates job creation, and creates local economic benefits. The industry requires this certainty in order to compete for investment and attract financing. NHA supports continued investment in the existing incentives while examining new tax policy options to fully realize the growth potential of the industry.
- 3. Support technology advancement and project deployment through continued robust appropriations support in FY 2016 for the DOE Water Power R&D program.** The DOE Water Power program assists innovative new technologies to come to market as well as to conduct the basic research needed to fill the gaps of the privately-funded industry R&D programs. The Program supports initiatives across all water power resources. NHA supports a FY 2016 funding level of \$100 million with \$40 million for the hydropower program area and \$60 million for the marine and hydrokinetic program area.
- 4. Include all water power resources in programs designed to spur the growth of clean energy generation.** Hydropower, pumped storage and marine energy are clean air resources that should be acknowledged and valued under federal programs to spur greater deployment of clean energy generation. NHA supports an inclusive approach in the treatment of hydropower under all renewable energy or clean energy programs to better recognize the benefits of the resource.

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