



November 6, 2017

The undersigned groups are writing to express strong support for H.R. 3043, the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017, and to request your vote as it is considered on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives this week.

Hydropower is America's single largest provider of renewable electricity, making up almost one-half of all generation from renewable resources. Given that hydropower is an important source of domestic, emissions-free, flexible power needed to ensure consistent and reliable electric service, we must look to preserve and protect our existing hydropower system and promote new expansion opportunities.

H.R. 3043 provides a framework that adds accountability and transparency, eliminates inefficiencies and redundancies, and unlocks innovation and advancements in technology and operations, while protecting environmental values, public participation, and all existing authorities of federal and state decision-makers in the licensing process

The current regulatory environment is placing hydropower at risk. The licensing process can result in both new and existing projects taking up to ten years or longer to receive their approvals. This not only creates uncertainty for project owners and developers alike, but burdens electricity customers with additional unnecessary costs and only delays important environmental measures that the industry, resource agencies, and the environmental community agreed upon during the licensing process and want to see deployed.

Additionally, the fleet of almost 2,200 hydropower projects across the country supports approximately 118,000 ongoing full-time equivalent jobs in operations and maintenance and 25,000 jobs in construction and upgrades. By maintaining our existing fleet and supporting growth in the sector, the hydropower industry could support close to 200,000 jobs. Further local economic development in other industries is also spurred due to access to affordable electricity from hydropower projects. However, we will not realize the full measure of these jobs and economic opportunities without improvements to the licensing process.

We believe H.R. 3043 is a moderate proposal developed with bipartisan input and, as such, deserves strong support by both Republicans and Democrats. Please contact any of our organizations for additional information or assistance on this bill.

Sincerely,

The American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)  
American Public Power Association (APPA)  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE)  
Edison Electric Institute (EEI)  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (Boilermakers)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)  
Large Public Power Council (LPPC)  
Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)  
National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)  
National Hydropower Association (NHA)  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)  
North America Building Trades Council (NABTU)  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (Carpenters)