



**Edison Electric
Institute**

Thomas R. Kuhn
President

May 12, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), I am writing in support of the “Hydropower Regulatory Modernization” discussion draft to reform and modernize the licensing and regulation of hydropower. We are pleased the discussion draft will be considered by the House Energy and Commerce Committee on May 13 and would like to work with the Committee to ensure its inclusion in the energy package that is being developed for House consideration later this year.

Hydropower continues to be, for all the right reasons, a valuable source of generation capacity. It is clean, renewable, and has the flexibility to play an important role in grid reliability and as backup capacity to intermittent generation resources. Nonetheless, the process for relicensing facilities remains difficult, costly, and duplicative. Lacking in transparency and efficiency, the process can take more than a decade.

We applaud Representative McMorris-Rodgers’ leadership in this area and believe the discussion draft will lead to better coordination and timely decisions by FERC and the other federal agencies involved in hydropower licensing. Our member companies have valuable experience in negotiating the current process for relicensing hydropower facilities, and we welcome the opportunity to work with you to advance this important legislation.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing a hearing so quickly on this issue.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Thomas R. Kuhn.

Thomas R. Kuhn