



**Edison Electric  
INSTITUTE**

**Thomas R. Kuhn**  
President

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

On behalf of the Edison Electric Institute (EEL), the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies, I commend you for holding a hearing tomorrow on a Discussion Draft of the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017.

Hydropower is America's largest source of renewable energy, providing millions of Americans with reliable, clean baseload electricity. In addition, hydropower provides important features and services to the electric grid such as peaking generation, load-following, energy storage, and other reliability benefits.

In order to preserve and protect the existing hydropower system and promote new expansion opportunities, the current hydro relicensing process must be modernized to streamline and coordinate agency reviews, add accountability and transparency, eliminate inefficiencies and redundancies, ensure that license conditions are well founded and reasonable, and facilitate the deployment of low-impact new hydro and upgrades to existing projects.

The Discussion Draft, similar to language developed and passed by the House and Senate in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, represents a positive and significant first step towards achieving these goals. We appreciate your prompt scheduling of this hearing to examine the many issues related to hydropower policy reforms. The Discussion Draft can be further improved in several areas, including provisions related to mandatory conditions, deadline extensions, license terms, credit for early action, and trial-type hearings.

Once again, we thank you for your leadership and continuing focus on this critical issue. As the Subcommittee addresses hydropower reform again this Congress, we look forward to working with you and other Members to further improve the bill and achieve effective, bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Kuhn', with a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas R. Kuhn  
President