

Maine



Rivers

**OUR MISSION IS TO
PROTECT, RESTORE AND
ENHANCE THE
ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF
MAINE'S RIVER
SYSTEMS**

**P.O. BOX 782
YARMOUTH, ME 04096**

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WWW.MAINERIVERS.ORG

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Thank you for this opportunity to communicate with you regarding the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". Maine Rivers is a statewide advocacy organization and we appreciate this opportunity to provide you with our thoughts on how to improve the hydropower licensing process, based on our experiences in Maine. We want you to know that the impact of hydropower licensing on our fisheries, our public lands, our wildlife and our waters, as well as recreation is critically important. It is vital that these values continue to be protected in the process.

First we wish to note that collaboration is key. By working together on hydropower licensing it is possible to achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources.

This is very important to us in Maine, our rivers provide power but are also the cornerstone of our recreation economy. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we strongly urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. We believe that this can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

Sincerely,

Landis Hudson

Landis Hudson
Executive Director



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers Alliance is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

Similarly, in order for stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, it is vitally important that they have the information they need about the river and the project as soon as possible in the licensing process. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities. The public interest would be better served by requiring that all of the necessary information be provided early in the licensing process.

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federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

John R. J. Burrows
On behalf of the MKRA





March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Hells Canyon Preservation Council is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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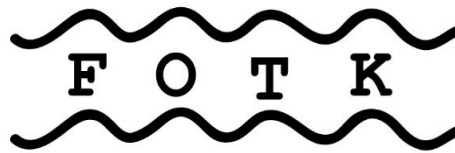
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Sincerely,



Darilyn Parry Brown
Executive Director



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Friends of the Kinni is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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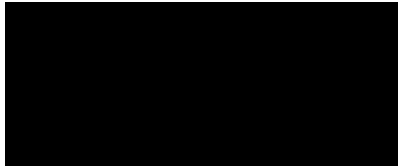
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Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael S. Page, President
Friends of the Kinni



Main office: 200 First Avenue W, Suite 107 • Seattle, WA 98119 • (206) 286-4455 • (206) 286-4454 fax
Field offices: 1631 NE Broadway, #613 • Portland, OR 97232 • (503) 230-0421
902 Pueblo Street • Boise, ID 83702 • (208) 345-9067 • (208) 343-9376 fax
35 W Main Avenue, Suite 200 • Spokane, WA 99201 • (509) 747-2030 • (509) 456-8400 fax

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Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Save Our wild Salmon Coalition (SOS) is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". SOS is a national coalition of conservation organizations, fishing business associations, and clean energy and orca advocates working to protect and restore healthy, harvestable populations of wild salmon and steelhead to the rivers and streams and marine waters of the Pacific Northwest. We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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Alaska Trollers Association
American Rivers
American Whitewater
Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Boulder-White Clouds Council
Coast Range Association
Coastal Trollers Association
Columbia Riverkeeper
Conservation Northwest
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Endangered Species Coalition
Federation of Fly Fishers
Friends of the Clearwater
Friends of the Earth
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Institute for Fisheries Resources
Izaak Walton League of America
The Lands Council
Lighthawk
Long Live the Kings
The Mountaineers
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Cascades Conservation Council
Northwest Resource Information Center
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
NW Energy Coalition
NW Guides and Anglers Association
Oregon Guides and Packers Association
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center
Puget Sound Harvesters
Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association
Salmon For All
Salmon Protection and Watershed Network
Sierra Club
Trout Unlimited
Washington Kayak Club
Washington State Food & Nutrition Council
Washington Trollers Association
Washington Wilderness Coalition
Washington Wildlife Federation
Water Watch of Oregon
Wild Steelhead Coalition
The Wilderness Society
Willamette Riverkeeper

When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Joseph Bogaard, executive director
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition



March 15, 2017

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

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Ranking Member
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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

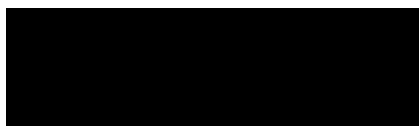
Nature Abounds, an emerging national environmental nonprofit, is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. With over 9,000 supporters engaged in activities to protect the environment, the impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization. We write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Melinda Hughes.

Melinda Hughes
President



1845 N. Farwell Avenue • Suite 100 • Milwaukee, WI 53202
ph 414.287.0207 • fax 414.273.7293 • milwaukeekeeper.org

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

On behalf of Milwaukee Riverkeeper, we are pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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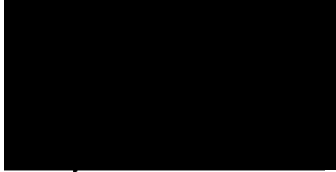
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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you

to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production. This is especially important as hydropower dams often take away public rights in waters such as fishing, recreational paddling, etc., which many of our members enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Nenn
Riverkeeper

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Penobscot Paddle and Chowder Society is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Sincerely,
Ryan Galway, President Penobscot Paddle and Chowder Society Maine

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Friends of Butte Creek is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Allen Harthorn
Friends of Butte Creek



KINNICKINNIC
River Land Trust

We work with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed.

March 15, 2017

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

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

Board of Directors

Peter Dahm, *President*
River Falls, WI

Chris Bye, *Vice President*
Roberts, WI

Shawn Monaghan, *Treasurer*
Minneapolis, MN

Alison Page, *Secretary*
River Falls, WI

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River Falls, WI

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River Falls, WI

Rosanne Bump
River Falls, WI

Robert Chambers
River Falls, WI

Susan Goode
River Falls, WI

Brian Senoraske
River Falls, WI

Hal Watson
River Falls, WI

Deborah Wulf
Hudson, WI

Staff

Dave Fodroczi
Executive Director

Kim Davis
Office Manager

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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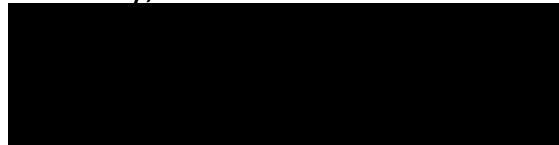
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Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of David Fodroczi.

David Fodroczi, Executive Director
Kinnickinnic River Land Trust



Association of Northwest Steelheaders

6641 SE Lake Rd. • Milwaukie OR 97222

503-653-4176 • 503-653-8769 (fax)

office@anws.org • www.nwsteelheaders.org

Established 1960

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation".

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders was formed in 1960 to represent the interests of recreational anglers and advocate for robust populations of salmon and steelhead. These fish are vitally important to the economy, culture, and identity of the Northwest. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our 1,600 members, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

In our region we have the benefit of long experience with the interrelationships of hydropower, fish, wildlife, and people. We continue to learn ways in which energy production needs can be met while accommodating vital migratory fish populations.

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders has direct experience with hydropower licensing, as one of the stakeholder groups involved in the recent relicensing of Portland General Electric's (PGE) hydropower facilities on the Clackamas River in Oregon. As of year-end 2015, PGE served 52 cities in Oregon, and provided reliable electric power to nearly one-half of Oregon's citizens. Thanks to the input of stakeholder working groups, including Federal agencies, tribes, conservation and recreational interests, improvements were made in upstream and downstream fish passage and instream habitat. Today, there is a robust hatchery-supported recreational fishery on the Clackamas below the hydro projects, while upstream of the projects, the numbers of wild winter steelhead, ESA-threatened Coho salmon, and the prized spring Chinook salmon continue to increase. Spring Chinook are colonizing new habitat made possible by tributary flow management. The downstream passage of juvenile salmon and steelhead through the hydro system now occurs in a matter of hours rather than days, leading to significant survival improvement. Meanwhile, PGE's 4Q earnings per share have doubled over the last 6 years.

Our experience convinces us that one of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies

*Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.
The Association of Northwest Steelheaders is a 501(C)3 corporation: 91-1031100*



Association of Northwest Steelheaders

6641 SE Lake Rd. • Milwaukie OR 97222

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Our experience on the Clackamas River shows that when we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

Ian Fergusson
Resources Director
Association of Northwest Steelheaders



American Packrafting Association

PO Box 13
Wilson, WY 83014
907-947-6437
info@packraft.org
www.packraft.org

"At the water's edge...just keep going"

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

American Packrafting Association is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Sincerely,





March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Atlantic Salmon Federation is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



John Burrows
Director, New England Programs



CLEAN, FLOWING WATERS FOR WASHINGTON

The Center for
Environmental Law & Policy

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Center for Environmental Law & Policy appreciates the opportunity to offer our thoughts on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes,

federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

The Center for Environmental Law & Policy is a statewide organization in Washington State whose mission is to protect, preserve and restore Washington's rivers and streams. Thank you for taking the time to review our comments.

Sincerely,



Trish Rolfe
Executive Director
Center for Environmental Law & Policy



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Columbiana is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation." We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

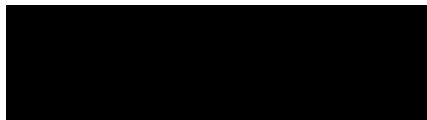
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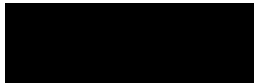
When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you

to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Geraldine K. Gillespie
President
Columbia River Bioregional Education Project
(aka Columbiana)





CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

The River Connects Us

15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301 crwc@ctriver.org www.ctriver.org

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Connecticut River Watershed Council has since 1952 worked on behalf of New England's largest river to protect and restore its ecology, economy, and quality of life. As our watershed supports a wide variety of hydropower projects we have decades of experience working on hydropower relicensing as an active and responsible stakeholder.

We continue to have significant concerns that proposals to change the statutes regarding hydropower relicensing will adversely affect our ability to participate in a vital process that has long term implications – both positive and negative – for the public's rivers. It is critical to keep the fact that hydropower operators are being granted the right to use a public trust resource square in mind. Any changes that have the effect of limiting the public's involvement or constraining information may have some hypothetical "efficiency" in the process, but they will in the end come at the expense of the public's interest in the fair and balanced use of its resources.

We are presently involved in the simultaneous relicensing of five hydroelectric projects on the Connecticut River that is being managed via FERC's Integrated Licensing Process. This is a five-year process that has to date involved over 70 studies and thousands of pages of reports, results, and analysis. Along with being actively involved in evaluating and commenting on all of these studies we are leading the coordination and collaboration of the stakeholders in order to ensure there is a clear and coherent framework for all the stakeholders to work within. We have done this before and know that it provides solutions and avoids legal challenges.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members,

MASSACHUSETTS
413-772-2020

LOWER VALLEY
860-704-0057

UPPER VALLEY
802-869-2792

NORTH COUNTRY
802-457-6114



CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

The River Connects Us

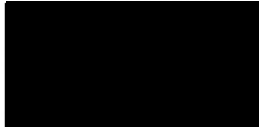
15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301 crwc@ctriver.org www.ctriver.org

and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

Similarly, in order for stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, it is vitally important that they have the information they need about the river and the project as soon as possible in the licensing process. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities. The public interest would be better served by requiring that all of the necessary information be provided early in the licensing process.

We continue to have serious reservations about the motivations and end results of these proposed “efficiencies” and “modernizations.”

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Fisk, Ph.D.
Executive Director

March 14, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Crab Apple Whitewater is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on recreation, fish, wildlife, public lands and waters is vital to our three generation family business.

In order to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient we must encourage stakeholders to collaborate and work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,
Frank Mooney, Ownership Family
Crab Apple Whitewater, Inc.

ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE

DEDICATED TO ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Endangered Habitats League (EHL) is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". For your reference, EHL is Southern California's only regional conservation group.

We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Yours truly,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Dan Silver.

Dan Silver
Executive Director



FRIENDS OF THE EEL RIVER

Working for the recovery of our Wild & Scenic River, its fisheries and communities.

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

We at Friends of the Eel River appreciate the opportunity to provide some perspective on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation."

Friends of the Eel River works to protect and restore Northwest California's Eel River. We focus on the three imperiled species of salmon and steelhead which were abundant in our watershed a century ago, and which provided the essential foundation for healthy human and natural communities across our remote region. We are working to remove the two century-old, and increasingly unsafe, dams which prevent salmon and steelhead, as well as the Eel's namesake Pacific lamprey, from reaching the headwaters of the Eel River, where cold water streams provide ideal spawning habitat.

In our own case, we are confident that nearly all of the parties interested in the fate of our Eel River dams are recognizing that the costs of maintaining the dams – let alone the ecological harms they do – is no longer justified by their small and diminishing power production they provide. We are actively engaged in helping to build a functional collaborative process to create win-win solutions for all affected stakeholders.

This effort has taught us not only how important such collaborative approaches are, but the extent to which they depend on the solid base of fair, reasonable protections for public trust resources like fisheries, clean water, and public recreation, as well as the fundamental recognition of the rights of Native American tribes to maintain cultures which depend on the health of these resources.

ARCATA OFFICE

Scott Greacen, Executive Director • [REDACTED]
PO Box 4945, Arcata, CA 95518 • 707.822.3342

PETALUMA OFFICE

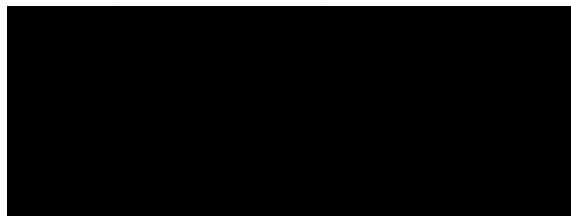
David Keller, Bay Area Director • [REDACTED]
1327 I Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 • 707.763.9336

Proposals brought before this committee in previous Congresses would have the effect of reducing the already very limited ability of independent federal and state agencies to ensure that the FERC relicensing process effectively addresses public trust issues within those agencies' expertise and jurisdiction. We note that despite the clear evidence in favor of removing some environmentally harmful dams which produce small amounts of hydropower, FERC has yet never failed to approve a dam owner's relicensing request. If anything, it's clear to us at FOER that the FERC relicensing process would be improved by requiring FERC to more fully address the vital issues which the independent agencies bring to the relicensing process.

In a similar vein, in order for stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, it is vitally important that they have the information they need about the river and the project as soon as possible in the licensing process. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities. The public interest would be better served by requiring that all of the necessary information be provided early in the licensing process.

When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Scott Greacen
Executive Director



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

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

March 15, 2017

Re: *Testimony for House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation."*

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Foothill Conservancy is a community-based, nonprofit conservation group located in California's central Sierra Nevada. We have been involved in hydroelectric relicensing since the early 1990s and in 2000, successfully negotiated a settlement agreement that led to issuance of a new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license for PG&E's Mokelumne River Project. The license settlement agreement greatly improved conditions for recreation, wildlife and fish while barely reducing the hydro project's power output.

We are pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation." We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The effects of hydropower projects on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we wish to see these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate to find local solutions for hydropower development-affected communities. This can be accomplished through Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

Similarly, to enable stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, it is vitally important that they have the information they need about the river and the project as early as possible in the licensing process. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are

Foothill Conservancy letter on “Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation.” March 16, 2017

informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities. The public interest would be better served by requiring that all the necessary information be provided early in the licensing process.

When all parties work together on hydropower licensing, we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way for the Committee to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Katherine K. Evatt.

Katherine K. Evatt
President



FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

1418 20TH STREET, SUITE 100, SACRAMENTO, CA 95811

PHONE: 916/442-3155 • FAX: 916/442-3396

WWW.FRIENDSOFTHERIVER.ORG

March 17, 2017

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

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

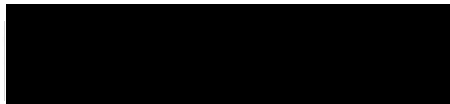
Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Friends of the River is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation." Our staff and volunteers have participated in many Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensings and relicensings and decisions by other federal agencies because of the important effects of dams and power diversions on rivers used by our members.

In our experience, the best decisions result from a close collaboration among federal, tribal, state, and local agencies with the dam owner and interested members of the public. This process can be efficient or inefficient depending on how well participants understand the role of themselves and others in making decisions. Well-designed Memoranda of Understandings between state and federal agencies with independent authority and FERC to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process.

Efficiencies flow from coordination of information requirements too. FERC's practice of denying study requests needed by other agencies in the licensing has been all too frequent and an unnecessary impediment to expeditious licensings. A change in that practice would be all too welcome.

Sincerely,



Ronald Stork
Friends of the River
1418 20th Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

FORVA DIRECTORS

William Tanger, Chair
Friends of the Roanoke River
Rick Roth, Treasurer
Friends of the New River
Del. Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Juanita Callis
Friends of the Roanoke River
Karen Firehock
Environmental Consultant
Patti Jackson
FORVA
Howard Kirkland
Blue Ridge River Runners
Randi Lemmon
Friends of the New River
Tom Miller
Float Fishermen of Virginia

STEERING COMMITTEE

Tony Adams
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Bob Born
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Bo Calvert
Blue Ridge River Runners
Debbie Coffin
James River State Park
Mark Frondorf
Shenandoah Riverkeeper
Greg Garman
Fisheries Biologist
Terry Grimes
Jackson River Defense Fund
Bob Hicks
FORVA
Kat Imhoff
FORVA
Pete Katt
Creek Freaks of Franklin Co
Jerry Lovelace
Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia
Nelson Mackey
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Shelton Miles
*Citizens for the Preservation
of the River (CPR)*
Trace Noel
Virginia Paddlesports Association
Cole Poindexter
Staunton River Watch
George Santucci
New River Conservancy
Tom Stutts
Friends of the Staunton
Steven Tingler
Headwaters Watch
Charles Vandervoort
Friends of the Shenandoah
Jeff Wold
Float Fishermen of Virginia

March 15, 2017

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

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

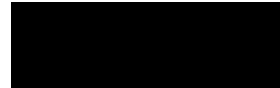
Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA) offers our comments on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We write to ensure that the impacts of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is a top priority.

To make the licensing process more efficient we encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to address the local communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and efficiency during the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

Similarly, in order for stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, it is vitally important that they have the information they need about the river and the project as soon as possible in the licensing process. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities. The public interest would be better served by requiring that all of the necessary information be provided early in the licensing process.

Sincerely,



Bill Tanger, Chair, FORVA
257 Dancing Tree Lane
Roanoke VA 24019





Farmington River Watershed Association, Inc.

749 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070
(860) 658-4442 Fax (860) 651-7519 www.frwa.org

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

On behalf of the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), I would like to offer comments to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation".

Our organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit citizens' group dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring the Farmington River in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Our river is an excellent example of the benefits that can result when communities, agencies, and stakeholders take a collaborative approach to river management, including hydropower licensing. The Farmington is a multi-use river. It has great value as habitat for fish and wildlife, as a world-class trout fishing and whitewater paddling venue, as a top-quality source of drinking water for greater Hartford, and as a generator of hydropower. The potential for conflict over river uses is high, but starting in the early 1990s, our diverse river stakeholders jointly developed two advisory river management plans (one for the river's West Branch and one for its mainstem) as part of the process for federal Partnership Wild & Scenic River designation. After more than 20 years, the stakeholders and agencies still meet regularly, keep one another informed in a timely way about projects, share information, and work together on implementing the voluntary management plan. This is a great improvement over earlier decades.

The success of our collaborative and inclusive process leads us to heartily endorse the following points:

Mechanisms for Inclusion and Collaboration. Make the hydropower licensing process more efficient by encouraging stakeholders to collaborate on local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. State and federal agencies with independent authority, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, can ensure coordination and improve efficiency with Memoranda of Understanding. Agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies can work together, thus avoiding time-consuming and costly delays that arise from disputes and litigation.

Stakeholder Access to Information. For stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, they must have the information they need about the river and the project as soon as possible in the licensing process. If FERC denies study requests from agencies

with independent authority, stakeholders must either make decisions informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and its communities. The public interest is better served by requiring that all necessary information be provided early on.

Inclusion of All Stakeholders in Developing Legislation. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the route to meaningful improvements to the licensing process.

By working together, we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources.

Sincerely,



Eileen Fielding
Executive Director



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

WildEarth Guardians is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

Marlies Wierenga
Pacific NW Conservation Manager



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Golden West Women Flyfishers is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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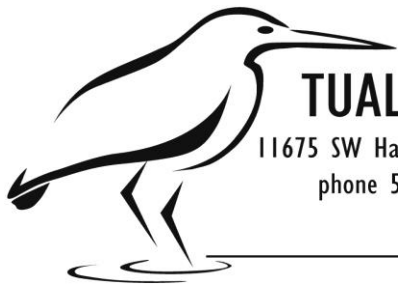
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Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Cindy M. Charles
Conservation Chairperson

A black rectangular redaction box covering text, likely a phone number or email address.



TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

11675 SW Hazelbrook Road • Tualatin, Oregon 97062

phone 503-218-2580 • fax 503-218-2583

www.tualatinriverkeepers.org

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Tualatin Riverkeepers is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

Ruby Buchholtz
River Advocacy Manager & Riverkeeper
Tualatin Riverkeepers

March 15, 2017

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

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



Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The River Guardian Foundation is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization not only here in North Carolina but nationally, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

George C. Matthis, Jr., President
River Guardian Foundation, Inc.



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Upstate Forever is a land conservation and advocacy organization working to protect critical lands, waters, and the unique character of the Upstate region of South Carolina. We have nearly 2,000 members in the Upstate region of South Carolina, many of whom live, work, or recreate in the rivers and streams of the Upstate. We have participated in the relicensing of three of the fifteen existing FERC licensed dams over the past eight years in our region. We are pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Protecting Land & Water | Advocacy | Balanced Growth

When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Heather Nix
Clean Water Director
Upstate Forever





March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

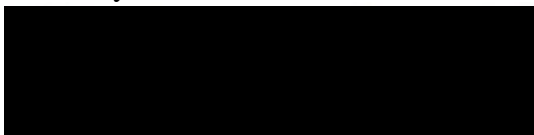
Tributary Whitewater Tours is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Buckley III, sole member

PO Box 728 Weimar, CA 95736 • www.whitewatertours.com
(800) 672-3846 • (530) 346-6812 • Fax 530-346-6499 • email: rafting@whitewatertours.com

Safely Guiding California River Trips since 1978



March 16, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

High Country Conservation Advocates is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

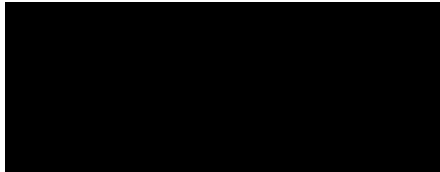
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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.



Thank you for ensuring that stakeholder consultation and consent is a core component of the licensing process.

Sincerely,



Julie Nania

Water Director

High Country Conservation Advocates

p: 866.349.7104 Ext. 3

a: 716 Elk Avenue | P.O. Box 1066, Crested Butte, CO 81224

w: www.hccacb.org





Idaho Rivers United - PO Box 633 - Boise, ID 83701 - (208) 343-7481 - idahorivers.org

Protecting and Restoring the Rivers and Fish of Idaho

March 15, 2015

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Idaho Rivers United (IRU) is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

IRU has participated in hydropower relicensing projects for over 20 years and is a signatory to the PacifiCorp Bear River Settlement Agreement of 2002. The successful relicensing of the Bear resulted in protections for fish and wildlife species, improvements for recreational activities and better assurance of profitable operations for the licensee.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Sincerely,



Kevin Lewis
Executive Director
Idaho Rivers United

Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

6298 W. Longbridge Road, P.O. Box 828
Pentwater, Michigan 49449

Telephone & Fax (231) 869-5487

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

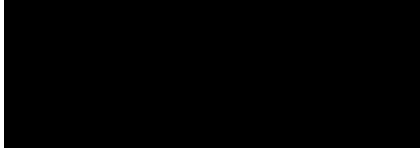
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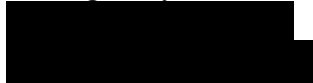


When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



James D. Schramm
Attorney/Cordinator
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition





Friends of the White Salmon River

Post Office Box 802
White Salmon, Washington 98672

friends@friendsofthewhitesalmon.org
www.friendsofthewhitesalmon.org

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Friends of the White Salmon River (FWSR) is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. We write as an organization that has engaged more than once with FERC and other agencies on hydropower licensing on the White Salmon River. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

FWSR believes that it is essential to build local consensus, including local and state agencies, on the outcomes of relicensing. Relicensing has the potential to provide significant benefits to the communities involved, and one of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Patricia L. Arnold.

Patricia L. Arnold

President

Friends of the White Salmon River.

New England *FLOW* ~~~~~

252 Fort Pond Inn Road, Lancaster, MA 01523 Tel. (978) 331-4889 FAX: (978) 728-4544 Email: [REDACTED]

March 16, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

New England *FLOW* is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

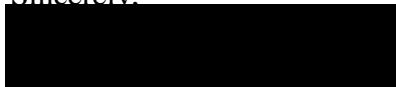
One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to

successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Secretary/Director.

Secretary/Director



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Native Fish Society is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

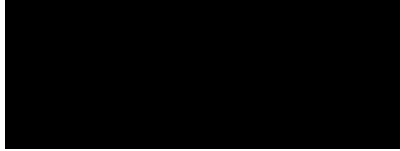
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federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Mark Sherwood
Executive Director
Native Fish Society

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

March 14, 2017

Rep. Fred Upton
Chair, Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Bobby Rush
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Hearing, Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation

Dear Chair Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding hydropower generation and operation in the United States. As the Committee considers opportunities and challenges to expanding hydropower, we request that you consider the impact of hydropower on public waterways and adjoining lands. Hydropower development affects opportunities for outdoor recreation and local communities adjacent to existing or potential projects that have an outdoor recreation economy.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of eight member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, American Alpine Club, and Mazamas and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who hike, climb, paddle, mountain bike, and backcountry ski and snowshoe on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

Interest of our Organization in Hydropower Licensing

Our members directly participate in license proceedings for hydropower projects in partnership with federal land managers, including in particular the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The authorities granted to federal agencies by section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act that require equal consideration of the "protection of recreational opportunities"¹ have helped ensure that hydropower operations balance our

¹ 16 U.S. Code § 797(e).



OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

society's need for power with the benefits of flowing rivers, including important economic benefits generated through the outdoor recreation economy. Outdoor recreation can be a benefit of hydropower under certain circumstances. On the section of their website promoting the benefits of hydropower, the National Hydropower Association states that "swimming, boating, fishing, camping, skiing and hiking are just some of the recreational activities that take place year-round and across the country at sites developed and supported by the hydropower industry."² Hydropower can also negatively impact outdoor recreation by reducing river flows and limiting access to public waterways.

Outdoor recreation generates \$646 billion in annual consumer spending and directly employs more than 6.1 million Americans, with more than 142 million Americans recreating outside last year. Much of this activity happens around water given that "the presence of water is essential to or enhances the satisfaction of recreationists engaged in most outdoor recreation activities."³ Instream flow, which is directly affected by hydropower development, is a fundamental aspect of recreational quality, and quantifying flow-recreation relationships has become common in most Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing proceedings.⁴ The outdoor recreation economy is dispersed, contributing to the economic well-being of rural communities that are most often directly affected by hydropower development, and outdoor recreation offsets the often cyclical nature of resource development activities. Outdoor recreation is a part of our heritage, uniting families and communities in support of common passions.

Comments

Efforts to expand hydropower cannot come at the expense of FERC's existing responsibility to protect, mitigate, and enhance recreational opportunities. Past legislative proposals (*i.e.*, H.R. 8, Subtitle on Hydropower Regulatory Modernization⁵) considered by this Committee would severely limit the ability of local communities to advocate for recreational benefits in hydropower licensing by shifting responsibilities away from states, federal land managers with locally-based recreation staff, and affected communities. Instead, it would place that responsibility exclusively in the hands of FERC, a regulatory agency whose limited local field staff do not participate in licensing and are unlikely to understand local community needs. FERC staff only have the ability to participate in one or two site visits in all over a multi-year licensing process, and typically have minimal experience and familiarity with local resources and values. In

² <http://www.hydro.org/why-hydro/other-benefits/>, last accessed March 12, 2017.

³ Kakoyannis, C. and G.H. Stankey. 2002. Assessing and evaluating recreational uses of water resources: implications for an integrated management framework. USDA Forest Service, PNW-GTR-536.

⁴ Whittaker, D., B. Shelby, and J. Gangemi. 2005. Flows and recreation: a guide to studies for river professionals. Hydropower Reform Coalition and National Park Service.

⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/8>, last accessed March 12, 2017.

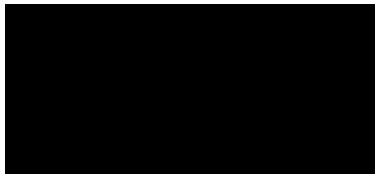


OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

considering future legislative changes to the Federal Power Act, our interest is in outcomes that are protective of and beneficial to outdoor recreation and local communities.

While there are opportunities to improve hydropower licensing, we oppose any effort to diminish the ability of local citizens and public resource agencies to ensure that hydropower licenses include provisions to protect the public river resources that are important to them. We urge you to focus on efforts that uphold the important responsibility and authority that resource agencies have in the hydropower licensing process, including providing adequate funding for these agencies to meet their statutory obligations in a timely fashion. The primary focus of expanding hydropower should be on promoting efficiency, retrofitting suitable non-powered dams, and upgrading century-old technology that affects rivers across the country. In some cases modernizing infrastructure means removing projects that are not cost effective and restoring rivers for the benefit of communities, the environment, and the outdoor recreation economy.

Best regards,



Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Brady Robinson, Executive Director, Access Fund
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Dave Wiens, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Phil Powers, Executive Director, American Alpine Club
Lee Davis, Executive Director, the Mazamas





SELKIRK CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

KEEPING THE WILD IN THE SELKIRK ECOSYSTEM

March 14, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Selkirk Conservation Alliance is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation." We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation. MOU's create predictability in the process and can be legally binding agreements that all parties can benefit from.

Similarly, in order for stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, it is vitally important that they have the information they need about the river and the project as soon as possible in the licensing process. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities. The public interest would be better served by requiring that all of the necessary information be provided early in the licensing process to all stakeholders. This could be an important element in the MOUs proposed above.

When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies,

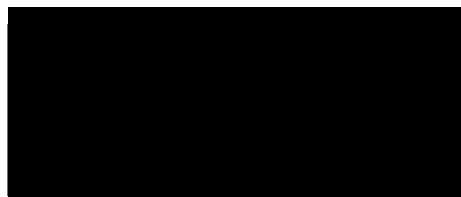
Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities

March 14, 2017

Page 2

recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Moody, PWS No. 310
Executive Director, Selkirk Conservation Alliance

cc: 2017 Project Comment File



Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

P.O. Box 991 • Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, Morgan County, West Virginia is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, they frequently avoid the time-consuming and costly delays that result from disputes that end up in litigation.

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When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. As the Committee drafts hydropower legislation, we urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders, not just power companies, is the only way that the Committee will be able to successfully develop meaningful improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Marsh
President



SMITH RIVER ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 2129, Crescent City, CA 95531
www.smithriveralliance.org

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Smith River Alliance (SRA) is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on the hydropower licensing process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process. When agencies, tribes, community members, and energy companies work together, the American people see more cost effective outcomes.

Similarly, in order for stakeholders to make timely, well-informed and mutually agreeable decisions, it is vitally important that they have the information they need about the river and the project as soon as possible in the licensing process. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities. The public interest would be better served by requiring that all of the necessary information be provided early in the licensing process.

Thank you for your continued consultation with all of the relevant stakeholders --- not just power companies on these matters. We believe this broad and active consultation is the best way to successfully develop meaningful improvements to a licensing process that will protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

Grant Werschkull, Executive Director



March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Lands Council, a not for profit group based in Spokane, Washington, would like to lend our perspective to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". Our ongoing experience with the Sullivan Dam removal project in northeast Washington, which is a collaborative process gives us a unique perspective. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is a very important topic for our 2000 members and supporters. We believe collaboration is a key component to a successful process.

One of the most important things that can be done to make the hydropower licensing process more efficient is to encourage stakeholders to collaborate as they work to find local solutions for communities impacted by hydropower development. This can be accomplished by establishing Memoranda of Understanding between state and federal agencies with independent authority and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure coordination and improve efficiency throughout the process.

In our collaborative efforts, timely response to information is critical. FERC often denies study requests from agencies with independent authority, forcing stakeholders to either make decisions that are informed by outdated science or wait until the agency can exercise its own authority to demand the information. This leads to unnecessary delays and poor outcomes for the river and local communities.

When we work together on hydropower licensing we can achieve license agreements that continue profitable hydropower generation, protect ecosystems and cultural values, and provide for public use and enjoyment of our natural resources. We urge you to consult with all of the relevant stakeholders, including states, tribes, federal agencies, recreation and conservation groups, and energy companies. Involving all stakeholders. This will help the Committee to successfully develop improvements to the licensing process that protect the environment and ensure reliable energy production.

Sincerely,

Mike Petersen, Executive Director



March 15, 2017

OFFICES

312 Sutter Street,
Suite 402
San Francisco, CA 94108
(415) 882-7252

829 Thirteenth Street
Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 236-0330

67 Linoberg Street
Sonora, CA 95370
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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Tuolumne River Trust is pleased to offer our thoughts on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation". We appreciate having the opportunity to provide feedback on ways to improve the hydropower licensing process. The impact of hydropower licensing on fish, wildlife, public lands and waters, cultural values, and recreation is an important topic for our organization, and we write to ensure that these values continue to be protected in the process.

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Sincerely,



Patrick Koepele
Executive Director







Tennessee Valley Canoe Club
P.O. Box 11582
Chattanooga, TN 37401

www.tvccpaddler.com

March 15, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

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Sincerely,
John Hubbard
Conservation Co-Chairperson