

The Honorable Cliff Bentz
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
409 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2023

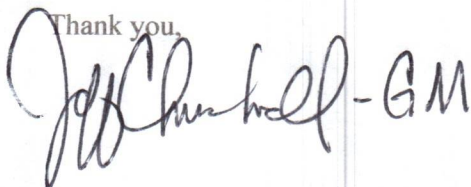
Re: Letter of Support for HR 4219 the Southwestern Power Administration Fund Establishment Act

Dear Chairman Bentz and Ranking Member Huffman,

Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc. (NELPCO) writes to provide a letter of support for HR 4219 the Southwestern Power Administration Fund Establishment Act. NELPCO serves its 11,800 residential members through power purchased from SPA.

NELPCO strongly supports HR 4219, the Southwestern Power Fund Establishment Act (Act). Not only does this Act more fully allow Southwestern to operate at the "lowest possible rate consistent with sound business principles", but it also costs the taxpayers nothing. Unlike Southwestern's current funding model that relies on appropriations which are repaid every year through power sales rates, the Act allows Southwestern to operate like a utility. With increased funding certainty to anticipate and plan for weather events and other impacting issues, Southwestern would not only save its customers money it would ensure enhanced grid reliability across the Midwest.

As a proud federal hydropower customer, I appreciate your consideration of this Bill and offer my strong support. This is a time that Congress can help cut the unnecessary red tape and make the program better.

Thank you,
 -GM