

August 27, 2025

The Honorable Harriet Hageman,
Chair; Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle
Ranking Member; Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 2073, the Defending Our Dams Act

Dear Chairman Hageman, Ranking Member Hoyle, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Public Power Council (PPC) and the millions of consumers served by our member utilities across the Pacific Northwest, I write to express strong support for H.R. 2073, the *Defending Our Dams Act*.

Federal hydropower is the backbone of the region's clean, reliable, and affordable energy system. The Columbia and Snake River dams are not only essential for keeping the lights on but also for integrating growing amounts of renewable energy into the grid, supporting rural economies, enabling irrigation and navigation, and contributing to national energy security.

H.R. 2073 underscores the importance of preserving these critical assets by prohibiting the use of federal funds for breaching, studying breaching or altering the Lower Snake River dams. The legislation provides much-needed certainty by recognizing the irreplaceable role federal hydropower projects play in balancing multiple uses of the river system while protecting ratepayers from the consequences of litigation and policies that threaten dam operations.

Demand for electricity will soon surge past our region's ability to deliver it. It is more important than ever to maintain and defend the existing federal hydropower system. The flexibility, reliability and affordability that hydropower provides cannot be replicated at scale, and losing these benefits would impose serious costs on Northwest families, businesses, and communities.

PPC commends Congressman Newhouse for his leadership on this important legislation, and we urge the Committee to advance H.R. 2073. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing attention to the value of federal hydropower.

Sincerely,



Scott Simms
CEO & Executive Director
Public Power Council