



May 3, 2017

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, House Energy Subcommittee
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Ranking Member, House Energy
Subcommittee
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

www.PublicPower.org
#PublicPower

2451 Crystal Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, VA 22202-4804

202-467-2900

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

On behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA or Association), I am writing to express our support for the Subcommittee on Energy holding a legislative hearing on various hydropower and pipeline process coordination bills. APPA is the national service organization representing the interests of over 2,000 community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities. These utilities include state public power agencies, municipal electric utilities, and special utility districts that provide low-cost, reliable electricity and other services to over 49 million Americans.

Public power utilities have led in hydropower development in recent years. Today, one hundred public power utilities have Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission)-licensed hydropower facilities. Making full use of the nation's hydropower resources is key to ensuring that the nation's grid remains reliable and resilient, and that utilities can meet emission reduction goals. Hydropower is a source of emissions-free, base-load power. Moreover, hydropower's "black start" capability makes it highly valuable through the lens of concerns about cyber and physical security; in instances of outages or disruptions to the grid, hydropower units can cycle back on quickly and become a backbone of full power restoration.

There is a significant potential for new hydropower to be generated at non-powered dams throughout the country, as well as for hydropower output to be dramatically increased in existing hydropower facilities and at water distribution conduits/canals. But there are excessive barriers to tapping this potential.

The Association appreciates the subcommittee recognizing the importance of hydropower as an important source of renewable power and holding today's hearing to examine hydropower infrastructure modernization. The Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017 discussion draft incorporates much of the language developed in the House and Senate energy bills from the 114th Congress that APPA supported.

In addition, APPA appreciates the subcommittee's examination of the Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act. This discussion draft is similar to language in Section 1101 of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act, that was passed by the House of Representatives in the 114th Congress. Given many public power utilities have built or plan to build new natural gas plants for either baseload power or to back up intermittent renewable generation, it is important they have access to interstate natural gas pipelines. The discussion draft language would help expedite the permitting of interstate natural gas pipelines by reinforcing the Commission's role as the lead agency for siting and requiring cooperating agencies to conduct environmental reviews concurrently.

We look forward to working with the subcommittee on these important bills and thank you for your leadership on essential hydropower and pipeline permitting reform.

Sincerely,



Susan N. Kelly
President & CEO
SNK/DW