



April 9, 2013

The Honorable Scott Tipton
U.S. House of Representatives
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0603

Dear Representative Tipton:

The National Hydropower Association commends you for your continued work to advance federal policy support for the development of the nation's conduit power potential with your bipartisan bill, H.R. 678, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act.

As you know from your experience with Colorado and other western hydropower developers, there is tremendous untapped renewable hydropower potential in existing man-made structures such as irrigation canals and other water conveyances, particularly those on the federal system.

NHA supports H.R. 678 because it will help unlock these projects and provide affordable, reliable renewable energy across the West. These projects will also be a source of good-paying jobs and bring additional economic opportunities to our nation's rural communities.

As the bill moves forward in the legislative process, NHA would also support an amendment that specifically requires that the Bureau of Reclamation's categorical exclusion process applies to these small conduit projects. Longstanding practice and experience at FERC (where similar treatment has been in place for decades) has shown this to be a workable framework for review of these projects.

NHA remains available to work with you, other policymakers and all hydropower stakeholders on legislation and policies to support the growth of the U.S. hydropower industry. And again, we applaud you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Church Ciocci".

Linda Church Ciocci
Executive Director

cc: Representative Doc Hastings, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
Representative Ed Markey, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee
Representative Tom McClintock, Chairman, House Water and Power Subcommittee
Representative Grace Napolitano, Ranking Member, Water and Power Subcommittee