

**NATIONAL
WATER
RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION**

Meeting Tomorrow's Challenge

February 28, 2013

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

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Treasurer
Executive Vice President

Tom Myrum
Dave Koland
Ron Thompson
Wayne Cunningham
Thomas Donnelly

Dear Representative Tipton:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I am writing to express our strong support for HR. 678, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2013.

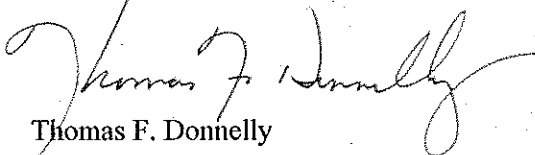
NWRA is a nonprofit federation of state associations and individuals dedicated to the conservation, enhancement, and efficient management of our Nation's water and hydropower resources.

NWRA members support a new role for water systems in helping alleviate the national need for clean, renewable electrical energy. These water providers are currently pursuing the concept of inexpensive low-head power generation of less than 5 MW per unit that can be utilized in water service areas across the country. The water providers have identified sites for many small hydropower units that could be built along control structures in the water providers' pipelines and canals. Each unit will utilize water gravity flow to generate green energy. A Department of Energy report recently identified some 1,400 megawatts of unused capacity in canals and ditches in the State of Colorado alone where small hydropower units at below 5 megawatts could be installed.

HR. 678 works to comprehensively streamline the hydropower permitting process. By allowing the Bureau of Reclamation to more easily streamline the lease of power privilege on their facilities. HR. 678 will create tremendous incentives for not only the Bureau but for the irrigation districts and water user associations that manage many of these facilities to move forward on small hydropower development.

We applaud your leadership on this major step towards energy independence and we stand prepared to work with you and the Natural Resources Committee to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Thomas F. Donnelly
Executive Vice President

cc: Representative Tom McClintock, Chairman, Water and Power Subcommittee
Representative Grace F. Napolitano, Ranking Member, Water and Power Subcommittee
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