



April 20, 2011

Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S Capitol, S-221  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

I am writing on behalf of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC) to voice our solid support for the **Hydropower Improvement Act of 2011 (S.629)** and urge floor action in the Senate on this important piece of clean energy legislation.

We are pleased that this bi-partisan legislation, introduced by Senators Jeff Bingaman and Lisa Murkowski, passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on April 12. LPPC believes it will foster and facilitate the growth of responsible hydropower development in the United States.

The Large Public Power Council represents 25 of the largest locally owned and operated not-for-profit electric systems in the nation. LPPC member utilities are located in 11 states and Puerto Rico; and own and operate more than 86,000 megawatts of generation capacity and over 35,000 circuit miles of high voltage transmission lines. LPPC member utilities supply electricity to some of the largest cities in the country -- including Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha, Phoenix, Sacramento, Jacksonville, San Antonio, Orlando and Austin.

For over 100 years, hydropower has been the most widely employed renewable energy resource in the United States. Hydropower is the nation's largest renewable resource for electric generation, currently producing seven percent of the nation's electricity -- and avoiding 225 million metric tons of carbon emissions each year.

In addition to generating **clean electricity**, hydropower has the ability to firm and stabilize variable renewable resources such as wind and solar, thereby integrating additional renewable electric power into the transmission grid.

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We believe that this legislation will increase the nation's hydropower capacity, will expand renewable power generation and create major job growth and economic opportunities throughout the United States. These include good paying engineering, manufacturing, construction and operations jobs that could revitalize communities.

The LPPC strongly supports the **Hydropower Improvement Act of 2011** and urges floor action in the Senate on this important piece of clean energy legislation.

We appreciate your leadership as Majority Leader on national energy issues and stand ready to assist you and the bill's numerous co-sponsors in promoting hydropower as a low cost, reliable and emissions free source of power to our nation's electricity consumers.

Sincerely,



Jorge Carrasco  
LPPC Chair

Cc: Senator Jeff Bingaman  
Senator Lisa Murkowski