



## The Large Public Power Council

---

300 North Washington Street, Suite 405, Alexandria, VA 22314  
703/740-1750 (phone) • 703/740-1770 (fax)  
lppc@lppc.org (e-mail)

July 6, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I am writing on behalf of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC) to voice our strong support for the ***Hydropower Improvement Act of 2010***. We salute your leadership in crafting this legislation and believe it will facilitate the growth of responsible hydropower development in the United States.

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.

Despite hydropower's contributions to date, the resource has significant opportunity to grow and expand in an environmentally-responsible manner. As you are aware, Navigant's recent study indicates, America's hydropower industry has the potential to create 1.4 million jobs and add 60,000 new megawatts (MW) of domestic renewable capacity by 2025. These include good paying engineering, manufacturing, construction and operations jobs that could revitalize communities.

The LPPC strongly supports the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2010 and urges its incorporation into any comprehensive energy or climate legislation that proceeds in the Senate.

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
July 6, 2010  
Page Two

The Large Public Power Council is an organization representing 24 of the largest locally owned and operated electric systems in the nation. LPPC members own and operate over 75,000 megawatts of generation capacity and nearly 34,000 circuit miles of high voltage transmission lines. Collectively, LPPC members own nearly 90% of the transmission investment owned by non-federal public power entities in the US.

Our member utilities supply power to some of the fastest growing urban and rural residential markets in the country. Members are located in 11 states and Puerto Rico -- and provide power to some of the largest cities in the country including Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha, Phoenix, Sacramento, Jacksonville, San Antonio, Orlando and Austin.

We appreciate your leadership on national energy issues and stand ready to assist you in promoting hydropower as a low cost, reliable and emissions free source of power to our nation's electricity consumers. . With the right federal policies, the hydropower industry has the potential to create jobs in every state, building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century clean energy infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Jorge Carrasco  
LPPC Chair