



June 11, 2015

Congressman Fred Upton, Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ed Whitfield, Chairman
House Energy and Power Subcommittee
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Bobby Rush
House Energy and Power Subcommittee
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Whitfield and Ranking Members Pallone and Rush:

As the House Energy and Power Subcommittee begins to markup the Committee-released energy discussion drafts, I am writing to encourage you to focus on provisions aimed at streamlining and simplifying the relicensing process for hydroelectric projects. While there are many provisions in the energy discussion drafts of interest to the members of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, we call out the hydroelectric provisions as an example of much-needed efforts to move us to a cleaner, more diverse energy portfolio and update our current regulatory process in an environmentally sound way.

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, publicly-owned utilities, and commercial end-users. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially available clean energy technologies, products and services. The coalition's diverse business membership is united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future for America.

Renewable energy development has significant potential and policymakers have prioritized the development of renewable energy on public lands. In practice, however, it can be time consuming and expensive to develop these projects. The system strives to promote development while protecting important environmental values. However, it can also contain redundancies and inefficiencies that unnecessarily slow the deployment of hydropower and other forms of renewable energy and can delay much-needed environmental enhancements and benefits.

At a time when we need renewable, affordable and reliable energy, the United States needs an updated, more efficient regulatory process. The Business Council for Sustainable Energy encourages you to consider provisions that aim to focus on and improve the hydropower relicensing process.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President

Cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee