

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2003

### PROTECT RIVERS AND FISH!

#### Support the Dingell-Boehlert Amendment and Oppose the Hydroelectric Provisions in H.R. 6

Dear Colleague:

The hydroelectric relicensing provisions contained in H.R. 6 would roll back decades of environmental, fish, and wildlife protections and tip the scale of the licensing process heavily in favor of utilities. Under the bill, utilities alone can propose alternatives to resource and fish and wildlife protections that must be accepted under certain conditions. Utilities are also given special procedural rights in the event that they disagree with resource or fish and wildlife recommendations. These special considerations are not given to other legitimate stakeholders in the licensing process like states, Native American tribes, landowners, sportsmen, or concerned citizens.

Furthermore, H.R. 6 creates two new subsidies, or incentive payment programs, for facilities that add a turbine to an existing dam and for capital improvements at facilities with existing generating capability. Hydroelectricity is a very mature industry that hardly needs scarce taxpayer dollars at a time of massive deficits and economic uncertainty.

The substitute we offer is identical to a bipartisan compromise that was included in last year's energy bill and passed the full House. The substitute allows any party to a licensing to propose an alternative and requires the relevant federal agencies to develop dispute resolution procedures. The substitute introduces flexibility into the process without giving one party undue influence, while simultaneously insuring that environmental protections are not diluted. The substitute also strikes the hydroelectric subsidy.

Please join us in protecting our natural resources, fish, and wildlife. See the attached list of organizations that support the Dingell-Boehlert amendment and are opposed to the hydroelectric title of H.R. 6. For more information please contact Bruce Harris of the Committee on Energy and Commerce minority staff at ext. 6-3400.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL



SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

**Organizations that support the Dingell-Boehlert amendment  
and are opposed to the Hydro title of H.R. 6**

American Fisheries Society  
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association  
American Sportfishing Association  
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Bass Anglers Sportsmans Society  
National Wildlife Federation  
Trout Unlimited  
American Rivers  
National Audubon Society  
League of Conservation Voters  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Wilderness Society World Wildlife Fund