

SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 3043, THE "HYDROPOWER POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2017"

Sending Office: Honorable Bobby L. Rush
Sent By: JohnM@mail.house.gov

Sponsored by: Ranking Member Rush, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Energy Subcommittee

Dear Colleague:

I ask you to support the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (AINS) to H.R. 3043, the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017 that I will be offering tomorrow.

My amendment preserves states' and tribal authorities under the Clean Water Act.

It expands tribal rights by allowing the Secretary of Interior to delegate authority to Indian tribes to impose mandatory conditions on a hydropower license if the tribe has the capacity to assume the role. And, it directs FERC and the Secretary of Interior to issue guidance on best practices for engagement with Indian tribes in the hydropower licensing process.

My amendment reduces uncertainty and delay in the hydropower license process by:

Mandating a consensus-based process among all parties to the license process that will result in a new rule that defines a completed application and establishes a process that results in a final decision by the Commission on a license within 3 years of receiving a completed application.

My amendment also contains a number of provisions that were agreed to on a bipartisan basis during the conference on the energy bill last year. It allows FERC to extend deadlines on construction permits and rewards licensees that invest in project upgrades.

My amendment also reauthorizes the popular program first authorized in EPACT 2005 to provide incentives for hydroelectric production and efficiency improvements.

H.R. 3043 is an unbalanced bill. The hydropower process can and should be more efficient. As lead agency, FERC should be ensuring that federal agencies, states, and tribes receive information that will enable timely decisions. And, that applicants are provided clear guidance about what is required to facilitate those decisions. I urge you to support the Amendment in Nature of a Substitute.

Sincerely,

BOBBY L. RUSH

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Energy

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