

Alabama Rivers Alliance ** Alaska Hydro Project ** Alaska Survival ** All-Outdoors Whitewater Rafting
 ** Alliance for the Great Lakes ** Alpine Lakes Protection Society ** Altamaha Riverkeeper ** American
 Canoe Association ** American Outdoors Association ** American Packrafting Association ** American
 Rivers ** American Whitewater ** Anacostia Watershed Society ** Anglers of the Au Sable ** Anacostia
 Watershed Society ** Appalachian Mountain Club ** Appalachicola Riverkeeper ** Appalachian
 Mountain Club ** Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts ** Atlantic Salmon Federation ** Baltimore Canoe
 and Kayak Club ** Berkshire Whitewater ** Black River Warrior Riverkeeper ** Berkshire Whitewater **
 California Hydropower Reform Coalition ** California Outdoors ** California River Watch ** California
 Sportfishing Protection Alliance ** California Trout ** Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington
 DC ** Cascadia Expeditions ** Cascadia Wildlands ** Catawba Riverkeeper ** Catawba Riverkeeper
 Foundation ** Catawba Wateree Relicensing Coalition ** Cecil Land Use Association ** Center for
 Biological Diversity ** Center for Environmental Law and Policy ** Chatahoochee Riverkeeper **
 Chatahoochee River Warden ** Chesapeake Bay Foundation ** Chesapeake Watershed Alliance **
 Clean Water Action ** Coastal Conservation League ** Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation **
 Columbia River Bioregional Education Project ** Congaree Riverkeeper ** Connecticut River Watershed
 Council ** Conservation Northwest ** Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship ** Conodoguinet
 Creek Watershed Association ** Cook Inlet Keeper ** Coosa Riverkeeper ** Copper Country Alliance **
 Crab Apple Whitewater ** Defenders of Wildlife ** Dolores River Boating Advocates ** Downeast
 Salmon Federation ** Earthjustice ** Endangered Habitats League ** Endangered Species Coalition **
 Eno River Association ** Environment America ** Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
 ** Farmington River Watershed Alliance ** Float Fishermen of Virginia (FFV) ** Foothill Conservancy **
 Foothills Paddling Club ** Foothills Water Network ** Forest Unlimited ** Freshwater Future ** Friends
 of Butte Creek ** Friends of Grays Harbor ** Friends of Living Oregon Waters (FLOW) ** Friends of
 Merrymeeting Bay ** Friends of Sebago Lake ** Friends of the Columbia Gorge ** Friends of the
 Crooked River ** Friends of the Earth ** Friends of the Eel River ** Friends of the Kinni ** Friends of
 Patapsco Valley State Park ** Friends of the Presumpscot River ** Friends of the Quincy Run Watershed
 ** Friends of the Reedy ** Friends of the River ** Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA) ** Friends of
 the Westkeag ** Friends of the White Salmon ** Georgia River Network ** Golden West Women
 Flyfishers ** Great Lakes Council - International Federation of Fly Fishers ** Gunpowder Riverkeeper **
 Hamilton Outing Club ** Hells Canyon Preservation Council ** High Country Conservation Advocates **
 Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters USA-JPIC ** Housatonic Valley Association ** Huron River Watershed
 Council ** Hydropower Reform Coalition ** Idaho Rivers United ** Interfaith Partners for the
 Chesapeake ** Izaak Walton League of America Headwaters Chapter ** Izaak Walton League of America
 Great Lakes Committee ** Kalmiopsis Audubon Society ** Keelhaulers Canoe Club ** Kennebec Reborn
 ** Kentucky Waterways Alliance ** Klamath Forest Alliance ** Klamath Riverkeeper ** Klamath-Siskiyou
 Wildlands Center ** League of Conservation Voters ** Long Island Sound Keeper ** Los Padres Forest
 Watch ** Lower Columbia Canoe Club ** Lower Mississippi River Foundation ** Lower Susquehanna
 Riverkeeper ** Maine Rivers ** Maryland Conservation Council ** Merrimack Valley Paddlers **
 Michigan Hydro Reform Council ** Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition ** Midshore Riverkeeper
 Conservancy ** Milwaukee Riverkeeper ** Mono Lake Committee ** Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers
 Alliance ** Natural Resources Council of Maine ** Natural Resources Defense Council ** Natural
 Systems Design ** Nature Abounds ** Naturaland Trust ** Nature Abounds ** Naugatuck River Revival
 Group ** New England FLOW ** Nicolett Island Coalition ** North Carolina Conservation Network **
 North Cascades Conservation Council ** Northwest Environmental Advocates ** Northwest Resource
 Information Center ** O.A.R.S. ** Ocean Conservancy ** Ohio River Foundation ** Olympic Forest
 Coalition ** Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club ** Oregon Natural Desert Association ** Oregon Wild **
 Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) ** Pacific Rivers ** Pennsylvania Council of
 Churches ** Penobscot Paddle and Chowder Society (PPCS) ** Planning and Conservation League **

Potomac Riverkeeper ** Prairie Rivers Network ** Protect American River Canyons (PARC) ** Quad Cities Riverkeeper, Inc. ** Quapaw Canoe Company ** Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes ** Rivers Alliance of Connecticut ** River Alliance of Wisconsin ** River Guardian Foundation ** River Network ** Riverkeeper ** Rogue Riverkeeper ** San Juan Citizens Alliance ** Save Our Saluda ** Save Our Wild Salmon ** Save the Bay ** Save the Sound ** Selkirk Conservation Alliance ** Shenandoah Riverkeeper ** Sierra Club ** Sierra Club (Connecticut Chapter) ** Smith River Alliance ** Snake River Waterkeeper ** South Carolina Native Plant Society ** South Yuba Rivers Citizens League ** Southern Environmental Law Center ** Spartanburg Area Conservancy ** Spearfish Canyon Society ** Spokane Riverkeeper ** St. Mary's River Watershed Association ** Stewards of the Lower Susquehanna, Inc. ** Susitna River Coalition ** Tennessee Clean Water Network ** Tennessee Riverkeeper ** The Lands Council ** The Mountaineers ** Three Rivers Waterkeeper ** Tributary Whitewater Tours LLC ** Trout Unlimited (Illinois Council) ** Tualatin Riverkeepers ** Tuolumne River Trust ** U.S. Rafting of Maine ** UMass Outing Club ** United Sludge Free Alliance ** Upper Missouri Waterkeeper ** Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition ** Upper Potomac Riverkeeper ** Upstate Forever ** Vermont Natural Resources Council ** Vermont Paddlers Club ** Waccamaw Riverkeeper ** Washington Environmental Law Center ** Washington Wild ** Waterkeeper Alliance ** Waterkeepers Chesapeake ** WaterWatch of Oregon ** West Michigan Hacklers ** West/Rhode Riverkeeper ** Western Environmental Law Center ** Wild Earth Guardians ** Wild Fish Conservancy ** Wild Steelhead Coalition ** Wild Washington Rivers ** Yadkin Riverkeeper ** Zoar Outdoor

November, 9, 2015

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act. This bill is an unprecedented assault on our nation's rivers and the people and wildlife that depend upon them. Its passage would end 95 years of balance in hydropower licensing, tipping the scales against taxpayers and in favor of huge utilities.

During consideration of H.R. 8, the House Energy and Commerce Committee adopted the McMorris Rodgers-McNerney Amendment. The amendment was developed in secret, with no input from recreation and conservation interests or the states, tribes, and federal natural resource agencies whose authorities will be usurped by FERC if the bill is enacted.

Two provisions of the McMorris Rodgers-McNerney Amendment are particularly troubling. First, H.R. 8 would allow power companies that operate hydroelectric dams to avoid compliance with the Endangered Species Act. If this amendment were to become law, it will be much more difficult to recover threatened and endangered populations of Pacific salmonids, shad, sturgeon, and Atlantic salmon, or any other aquatic species whose access to spawning habitat is blocked by power company dams. This amendment is a breathtaking assault on one of our nation's bedrock environmental laws.

Further, the McMorris Rodgers-McNerney Amendment would allow large utilities to ignore state and tribal requirements under the Clean Water Act that their dams meet water quality standards. This amendment appears to have been added to benefit a small number of huge corporate interests who are afraid that their dams, built many decades ago, might now have to comply with the Clean Water Act and meet the same water quality standards that other users of our waterways have been required to meet for years. For example, H.R. 8 could allow Exelon Corporation to avoid meeting its share of the responsibility to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, which is why Maryland's Republican administration has

opposed this provision. It could also allow Pacific Gas and Electric to get out of doing its part to meet water quality requirements on rivers that have been impaired by California's historic drought, which is why the State of California has also opposed this provision. If H.R. 8 is enacted, the burden for protecting these and other important bodies of water will fall disproportionately on other users of the river, particularly agricultural producers and municipalities.

Hydropower licenses are issued for up to 50 years. Hydropower facilities that are coming up for relicensing now were first constructed before virtually all modern environmental laws were in place. It is during relicensing proceedings that the public gets the opportunity to ensure that dam owners make the necessary changes to comply with modern laws. The opportunity to mitigate for the damage to the environment, while still providing reliable electricity, only arises once in a generation or two.

The balance the Federal Power Act strikes between power and non-power values has existed for almost a century. Current law protects the public's right to enjoy its rivers, a right which can and should be compatible with responsible electricity production. However, H.R. 8 upends that balance. Simply put, the McMorris Rodgers-McNerney Amendment is a massive giveaway to special interests at the expense of healthy rivers and the fish, wildlife, and people that depend upon them. If H.R. 8 passes, power company profits will go to the head of the line, ahead of every other user.

If you care about clean water, irrigation, meeting tribal treaty and trust obligations, wildlife, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, whitewater boating, water quality, municipal water supply, fire safety, flood control, or any other purpose other than generating power, then you should vote NO on H.R. 8.

Sincerely,

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Alaska Survival
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Foothills Water Network
Forest Unlimited
Freshwater Future

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Friends of Grays Harbor
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Pacific Rivers
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Planning and Conservation League
Potomac Riverkeeper
Prairie Rivers Network
Protect American River Canyons (PARC)
Quad Cities Riverkeeper, Inc.
Quapaw Canoe Company
Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
River Alliance of Wisconsin
River Guardian Foundation
River Network
Riverkeeper
Rogue Riverkeeper
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Save Our Saluda
Save Our Wild Salmon
Save the Bay

Save the Sound
Selkirk Conservation Alliance
Shenandoah Riverkeeper
Sierra Club
Sierra Club (Connecticut Chapter)
Smith River Alliance
Snake River Waterkeeper
South Carolina Native Plant Society
South Yuba Rivers Citizens League
Southern Environmental Law Center
Spartanburg Area Conservancy
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Upper Missouri Waterkeeper
Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
Upper Potomac Riverkeeper
Upstate Forever
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Vermont Paddlers Club
Waccamaw Riverkeeper
Washington Environmental Law Center
Washington Wild
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
WaterWatch of Oregon
West Michigan Hacklers
West/Rhode Riverkeeper
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Zoar Outdoor