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 ** Appalachian 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
** Kentuck 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 **
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,

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
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Defenders of Wildlife
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Downeast Salmon Federation
Earthjustice
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
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Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
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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
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Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park
Friends of the Presumpscot River
Friends of the Quincy Run Watershed
Friends of the Reedy
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Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA)
Friends of the Westkeag
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Huron River Watershed Council
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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
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Merrimack Valley Paddlers
Michigan Hydro Reform Council
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
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Natural Resources Defense Council
Natural Systems Design
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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)
Tulatin 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