ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE ** ALASKA HYDRO PROJECT ** ALASKA SURVIVAL ** ALL-OUTDOORS 
WHITWATER RAFTING ** ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES ** ALPINE LAKES PROTECTION SOCIETY ** 
AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION ** AMERICAN OUTDOORS ASSOCIATION ** AMERICAN PACKRAFTING 
ASSOCIATION ** AMERICAN RIVERS ** AMERICAN WHITWATER ** ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY 
** ANGLERS OF AU SABLE ** APALACHICOLA RIVERKEEPER ** APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB ** 
ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS ** ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION ** CALIFORNIA 
HYDROPOWER REFORM COALITION ** CALIFORNIA OUTDOORS ** CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH ** 
CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE ** CALIFORNIA TROUT ** CASCADIA EXPEDITIONS 
** CATAWBA RIVERKEEPER ** CECIL LAND USE ASSOCIATION ** CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 
AND POLICY ** CENTRAL SIERRA ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTER ** CHATAHOOCHEE 
RIVERKEEPER ** CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION ** CLEAN WATER ACTION ** COASTAL 
ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION ** COLUMBIA RIVER BIOREGIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT ** 
CONGAREE RIVERKEEPER ** CONNECTICUT FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ** CONNECTICUT RIVER 
WATERSHED COUNCIL ** CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION ** CONSERVATION NORTHWEST ** 
CONSERVATIVES FOR RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP ** COOK INLET KEEPER ** CRAB APPLE WHITWATER 
** DOLORES RIVER BOATING ADVOCATES ** DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION ** EARTH DESIGNS ** 
EARTHJUSTICE ** ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE ** ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION ** ENO RIVER 
ASSOCIATION ** ENVIRONMENT AMERICA ** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER ** 
FARMINGTON RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION ** FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY ** FOOTHILLS PADDLING 
CLUB ** FOOTHILLS WATER NETWORK ** FOREST ISSUES GROUP ** FOREST UNLIMITED ** FRIENDS OF 
BUTTE CREEK ** FRIENDS OF LIVING OREGON WATERS ** FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY ** FRIENDS 
OF SABAGO LAKE ** FRIENDS OF THE CROOKED RIVER ** FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ** FRIENDS OF THE 
EEL RIVER ** FRIENDS OF THE KINNI ** FRIENDS OF THE NANTICOKE RIVER ** FRIENDS OF THE RIVER ** 
FRIENDS OF THE WESKEAG ** FRIENDS OF THE WHITE SALMON ** GOLDEN WEST WOMEN FLYFISHERS 
** GREAT LAKES COUNCIL-INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLYFISHERS ** HILLS CANYON 
PRESERVATION COUNCIL ** HIGH COUNTRY CONSERVATION ADVOCATES ** HOOSIER ENVIRONMENTAL 
COUNCIL ** HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL ** HYDROPOWER REFORM COALITION ** IDAHO 
RIVERS UNITED ** IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA HEADWATERS CHAPTER ** KALAMAZOO RIVER 
STURGEON FOR TOMORROW ** KALMIOPSIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ** KENNEBEC REBORN ** KLAMATH 
FOREST ALLIANCE ** KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE ** LAKE COEUR D’ALENE WATERKEEPER ** 
LOS PADRES FOREST WATCH ** LOWER COLUMBIA CANOE CLUB ** LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER 
FOUNDATION ** MAINE AUDUBON ** MAINE RIVERS ** MARYLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL ** 
MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS ** MATTAWOMAN WATERSHED SOCIETY ** 
MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL ** MICHIGAN HYDRO RELICENSING COALITION ** MICHIGAN 
WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY ** MILWAUKEE RIVERKEEPER ** MONO LAKE COMMITTEE ** MOUSAM AND 
KENNEBUNK RIVERS ALLIANCE ** NATURE HERITAGE INSTITUTE ** NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION 
ASSOCIATION ** NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE ** NATURAL SYSTEMS DESIGN ** 
NATURALAND TRUST ** NATURE ABOUNDS ** NAUGATUCK RIVER REVIVAL GROUP ** NEW ENGLAND 
FLOW ** NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL ** NICOLLET ISLAND COALITION ** NORTH CAROLINA 
CONSERVATION NETWORK ** NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ** NORTHEAST 
WHITWATER LODGE AND GUIDE SERVICE ** NORTHWEST GUIDES AND ANGLERS ** O.A.R.S. ** OHIO 
RIVER FOUNDATION ** OLYMPIC FOREST COALITION ** OREGON KAYAK AND CANOE CLUB ** OREGON 
NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION ** OREGON WILD ** PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN’S 
ASSOCIATIONS ** PACIFIC RIVERS ** PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ** PENOBSCOT PADDLERS
Dear Senator or Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members across the nation, we are writing to urge you to drop provisions related to hydropower licensing from the final conference report on S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act.

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, S. 2012 upends that balance, placing the interests of power companies ahead of clean water, endangered species, irrigation, meeting tribal treaty and trust obligations, wildlife, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, whitewater boating, water quality, municipal water supply, fire safety, flood control, and every interest beyond generating power.

The House version of S. 2012 is so extreme that it has been condemned by a diverse group of interests including states, tribes, and conservation groups. The State of California raised questions about the constitutionality of the legislation and highlighted the failure of the hydropower provisions to protect the environment, as well as the failure of Congress to defer to the states in matters related to water rights. The State of Maryland believes that its passage would relegate the state to “bystander or second class status.” Native American tribes oppose the bill as an assault on their trust and treaty rights. More than 200 conservation and recreation organizations oppose it as “a breathtaking assault on our nation’s bedrock environmental laws.” Because of these broad objections and unified opposition, the Obama Administration has quite correctly issued a veto threat on these grounds.

The Senate version of S. 2012, while significantly better than the House version, has significant flaws that need to be addressed. The Obama Administration has again expressed concerns about how this bill would be implemented, concerns which we share. A coalition of conservation groups recently wrote:
We share the concerns of States, Tribes, and the White House about how the provisions in Section 3001 would be implemented. For example, we are concerned that if enacted as written, Section 3001 could limit agencies from, as part of the relicensing process, requiring power companies to conduct new studies into the impacts of their dams. This section would apply even if the dam’s existing license, and thus the studies that the current license depends on, are more than 50 years old and pre-date modern environmental statutes and changing climate conditions. Further, we are concerned that provisions in Section 3001 require federal natural resource agencies to conduct costly, wasteful and time consuming review of matters outside of their scope of expertise and jurisdiction. Taken together, the effect of these provisions could lead to increased costs to taxpayers and unnecessary delays in licensing, which is contrary to the goals of all parties to license proceedings.

As we have noted before, the provisions in both the House and Senate bills, while purporting to solve problems associated with hydropower licensing, were not the subject of any hearings and were drafted without substantial input from states, tribes, federal agencies, NGOs, or any other recognized and regular participants in the licensing process. The only input appears to have been provided by power companies who have a financial interest in license proceedings that is at times in conflict with the interests of taxpayers, states, tribes, and the general public.

We believe that there are significant opportunities to improve the licensing process to the benefit of all stakeholders. In lieu of the deeply flawed and environmentally damaging hydropower legislation being considered in the energy bill, we urge Congress to start from scratch and convene a broad group of stakeholders to develop consensus based solutions to issues with the licensing process. The hydroelectric title should be struck from S. 2012 and improving legislation should be adopted only when sufficient stakeholder input and collaboration occurs.

Working together, all those who wish to make use of our nations’ rivers can come up with changes that can benefit all parties. We know this to be true: stakeholder negotiations produced two significant hydropower bills signed into law in 2013, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act, and the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower and Rural Jobs Act.

As new scientific studies present alarming evidence about significant methane emissions from hydropower reservoirs, it’s more important than ever that Congress take a slow and deliberative approach to changing the Federal Power Act’s protections for non-power interests at hydropower dams. Hydropower licenses are issued once every generation. If we fail to get it right, we will live with the consequences for decades to come.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that you remove the hydropower licensing sections of S. 2012 when negotiating a conference report, and instead convene a stakeholder process on licensing reform that can actually achieve the goals of all concerned.

Sincerely,

ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION
COLUMBIA RIVER BIOREGIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT
CONGAREE RIVERKEEPER
CONNECTICUT FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION NORTHWEST
CONSERVATIVES FOR RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP
COOK INLET KEEPER
CRAB APPLE WHITENET
doLORES RIVER BOATING ADVOCATES
DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION
EARTH DESIGNS
EARTHJUSTICE
ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE
ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION
ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION
ENVIRONMENT AMERICA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER
FARMINGTON RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY
FOOTHILLS PADDLING CLUB
FOOTHILLS WATER NETWORK
FOREST ISSUES GROUP
FOREST UNLIMITED
FRIENDS OF BUTTE CREEK
FRIENDS OF LIVING OREGON WATERS
FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY
FRIENDS OF SABAGO LAKE
FRIENDS OF THE CROOKED RIVER
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
FRIENDS OF THE EEL RIVER
FRIENDS OF THE KINNI
FRIENDS OF THE NANTICOKE RIVER
FRIENDS OF THE RIVER
FRIENDS OF THE WESKEAG
FRIENDS OF THE WHITE SALMON
GOLDEN WEST WOMEN FLYFISHERS
GREAT LAKES COUNCIL-INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLYFISHERS
HELLS CANYON PRESERVATION COUNCIL
HIGH COUNTRY CONSERVATION ADVOCATES
HOOSIER ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
HYDROPOWER REFORM COALITION
IDAHO RIVERS UNITED
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA HEADWATERS CHAPTER
KALAMAZOO RIVER STURGEON FOR TOMORROW
KALMIOPSIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
KENNEBEC REBORN
KLAMATH FOREST ALLIANCE
KOOTENAI ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE
LAKE COEUR D’ALENE WATERKEEPER
LOS PADRES FOREST WATCH
LOWER COLUMBIA CANOE CLUB
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER FOUNDATION
MAINE AUDUBON
MAINE RIVERS
MARYLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL
MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
MATTAWOMAN WATERSHED SOCIETY
MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
MICHIGAN HYDRO RELICENSING COALITION
MICHIGAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY
MILWAUKEE RIVERKEEPER
MONO LAKE COMMITTEE
MOUSAM AND KENNEBUNK RIVERS ALLIANCE
NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE
NATURAL SYSTEMS DESIGN
NATURALAND TRUST
NATURE ABOUNDS
NAUGATUCK RIVER REVIVAL GROUP
NEW ENGLAND FLOW
NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL
NICOLLET ISLAND COALITION
NORTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION NETWORK
NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
NORTHEAST WHITEWATER LODGE AND GUIDE SERVICE
NORTHWEST GUIDES AND ANGLERS
O.A.R.S.
OHIO RIVER FOUNDATION
OLYMPIC FOREST COALITION
OREGON KAYAK AND CANOE CLUB
OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION
OREGON WILD
PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN’S ASSOCIATIONS
PACIFIC RIVERS
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
PENOBSCOT PADDLERS AND CHOWDER SOCIETY
PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE
POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER
POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
PROTECT AMERICAN RIVER CANYONS
QUAPAW CANOE COMPANY
RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR THE GREAT LAKES
RIVER ALLIANCE OF WISCONSIN
RIVER GUARDIAN FOUNDATION
RIVER NETWORK
RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
ROGUE RIVERKEEPER
SAN JUAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE
SASSAFRASS RIVER ASSOCIATION
SAVAGE RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
SAVE OUR SALUDA
SAVE OUR WILD SALMON
SAVE THE SOUND
SEA RUN BROOK TROUT COALITION
SELKIRK CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
SHENANDOAH RIVERKEEPER
SLEEPY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
SMITH RIVER ALLIANCE
SNAKE RIVER WATERKEEPER
SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE
SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER
SPEARFISH CANYON SOCIETY
SPOKANE RIVERKEEPER
ST MARY’S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
SUSITNA RIVER COALITION
TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER
THE LANDS COUNCIL
TRIBUTARY WHITEWATER TOURS, LLC
TROUT UNLIMITED ILLINOIS COUNCIL
TUOLUMNE RIVER TRUST
U.S. RAFTING OF MAINE
UNITED SLUDGE FREE ALLIANCE
UPSTATE FOREVER
WASHINGTON WILD
WATERWATCH OF OREGON
WESPAC FOUNDATION
WEST MICHIGAN HACKLERS
WILD EARTH GUARDIANS
WILD STEELHEAD COALITION
WILD WASHINGTON RIVERS
ZOAR OUTDOOR