



**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer

July 19, 2011

Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jim Inhofe, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

On behalf of America's electric cooperatives, I am writing today opposing the nomination of Rebecca Wodder for Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives providing retail electric service to more than 42 million consumers in 47 states. Millions of electric cooperative consumers rely on the affordable, renewable hydropower marketed by the federal Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs). The PMA hydropower projects serve multiple purposes that help drive the economies of many states. As Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Ms. Wodder would have great influence over the positions taken by the Department of Interior, which has broad jurisdiction over many areas impacting dam operations.

Because of the importance of the Power Marketing Administrations to our economy, we are strongly opposed to the nomination of Ms. Wodder. Since 1995, Ms. Wodder has served as President of American Rivers, an organization that has made dam removal a central part of its mission. During her tenure, she led efforts to remove the Lower Snake River dams in the Pacific Northwest and opposed the Obama Administration's Biological Opinion for salmon recovery in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Given her long tenure at an organization with a strong bias for dam removal, her objectivity on issues affecting federal hydropower facilities is questionable.

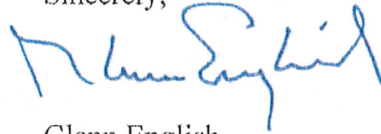
NRECA has long opposed misguided efforts to dismantle our federal hydropower resource. Unfortunately, Ms. Wodder has spent her professional career attempting to eliminate this reliable, affordable, renewable resource from our energy portfolio.



Accordingly, we urge you to oppose the nomination of Ms. Wodder for Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Glenn English

cc:

Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator John Barrasso
Senator Max Baucus
Senator John Boozman
Senator Ben Cardin
Senator Tom Carper
Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator Mike Johanns
Senator Frank Lautenberg
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Bernard Sanders
Senator Tom Udall
Senator Jeff Sessions
Senator David Vitter
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse