



**American
Public Power
Association**

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February 28, 2013

The Honorable Scott Tipton
United States House of Representatives
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Tipton:

On behalf of the American Public Power Association, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 678, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act. APPA is the national service organization representing the interests of over 2,000 community-owned, non-for-profit electric utilities. These utilities include state public power agencies, municipal electric utilities, and special utility districts that provide electricity and other services to over 47 million Americans.

APPA supports authorizing power development at the Bureau of Reclamation's conduits. This new authorization in H.R. 678 will help clarify and streamline the multi-agency inefficiencies associated with hydropower development on these federal projects by cutting duplicative processes and reducing the regulatory burdens that many of our members have encountered. Further, the legislation also protects existing agreements that water users have on conduit generation projects and provides additional safeguards to ensure such projects do not undermine water deliveries. This bill is a needed fix to a burdensome process.

APPA also applauds the change in this bill which increases the size of applicable projects from 1.5 megawatts to 5 megawatts. This provision could help facilitate much more hydropower development in several of the federal agency's canals and pipelines. The energy potential for these smaller projects will help alleviate power costs across the nation once in use.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue affecting electric utilities. I hope you will feel free to contact me or the APPA government relations staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Crisson'.

Mark Crisson
President & CEO