



SENATE ENERGY BACKS BIPARTISAN SMALL HYDRO BILL

WASHINGTON, MAY 17, 2018 -- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved bipartisan legislation from Reps. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) that would expedite federal reviews of small conduit (or energy-recovery) hydropower projects.

“There is now officially bicameral backing for a plan that would do big things for small hydro,” ClearPath Action Executive Director Rich Powell said. “These projects represent huge potential in providing clean and reliable power.”

The Promoting Conduit Hydropower Facilities Act ([H.R. 2786](#)), approved by the House last July, aims to aid projects that are typically low impact because they are constructed as part of existing water infrastructure, such as irrigation canals and pipes that deliver water to cities and for industrial and agricultural use.

New hydropower has been an overlooked source of clean baseload power despite it serving as one of the largest sources of U.S. renewable electricity. It is also a flexible source of power that can be quickly adjusted to match real-time changes in power demand.

One of the most promising untapped sources for new hydropower is in small and existing man-made structures. The U.S. has 1.2 million miles of water supply mains and there are thousands of hydro generation opportunities just within these water pipes alone. According to a Department of Energy estimate, the potential for conduit hydropower projects could be more than all the new conventional hydropower projects built in the U.S. over the past decade (1.7GW of conventional vs. up to 2GW of energy-recovery hydropower potential).

About ClearPath Action

Founded by businessman Jay Faison, ClearPath Action's mission is to accelerate conservative clean energy solutions. To advance the mission, ClearPath Action develops cutting-edge policy and messaging and works with policymakers and industry.