

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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May 29, 2012

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The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As we continue to advance policies that will reduce America's dependency on foreign energy under the "all-of-the-above" mantra, I respectfully urge you to consider our nation's largest, cleanest, and most inexpensive renewable energy source – hydroelectric power.

According to your Department of Energy, approximately only seven percent of our nation's total electricity and nearly seventy-five percent of all renewable energy comes from hydropower. Hydropower's undeveloped potential is nearly exponential. Currently, only three percent of the 84,000 dams in the United States produce hydropower and hydropower production could double without building a single new dam. Not to mention the commonsense regulatory reforms that can be made to reduce the regulatory burden constraining hydropower production. The first and foremost beneficiary of increasing the development of this clean renewable energy source will be consumers with lower utility bills.

While I applaud your decision to embrace an "all-of-the-above" energy approach, I am disappointed your "all-of-the-above" approach does not include hydropower. According to your campaign website, the United States' leading renewable energy source does not play a role in our nation's energy future. With the potential and benefits of hydropower in mind, I respectfully urge you to reevaluate and include hydropower in your "all-of-the-above" approach to energy independence.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers

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