



House Approves Two More GOP Bills Expediting Clean Hydropower

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12, 2017 -- House lawmakers today approved two more Republican bills to expedite clean U.S. hydropower.

The *Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act* ([H.R. 2872](#)) from Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.) would establish a streamlined environmental review process for qualifying non-powered dam projects.

“These critical clean power projects often struggle to attract investment because of a lengthy and uncertain regulatory process,” ClearPath Action Executive Director Rich Powell said.

The Department of Energy estimates the U.S. non-powered dam power generation potential is equivalent to roughly two dozen large coal power plants.

House lawmakers also approved [H.R. 2880](#), the *Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act*, from Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.). This streamlines the federal licensing process stymying the development of pumped storage hydropower facilities that make up the vast majority of U.S. electricity storage technologies.

“Despite the recent cost-declines in batteries, they are no substitutes for the long-duration energy storage services pumped storage facilities can provide,” Powell said.

As increasing levels of intermittent renewable energy are connected to the grid, more energy storage will be needed.

A 2016 Department of Energy report found the economic potential for pumped hydropower to exceed 35 GW. Tapping this potential by 2050 is unlikely to occur without regulatory reforms: a single pumped storage hydropower project can exceed \$1 billion and take several years to permit. Streamlining the regulatory process would improve investor certainty and encourage more market-driven investments

These two bills add to a growing suite of House-passed measures to expedite hydropower.

Earlier this year, [lawmakers approved](#) the [Hydropower Policy Modernization Act](#) from Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) to improve burdensome licensing and relicensing for roughly 400 non-federal facilities that will be up for relicensing by 2030.

Lawmakers also approved a bipartisan bill from Reps. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) [that would streamline federal reviews of conduit \(or energy-recovery\) hydro projects](#).

ClearPath Action is a 501(c)(4) working to create and influence conservative clean energy solutions. Find out more at [clearpath.org](#) and [clearpathaction.org](#) . Also follow us on Twitter: [@JayFaison1](#), [@powellrich](#) and [@ClearPathAction](#).