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**Committee on Natural Resources**  
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**Opening Statement of**  
**Chairman Doc Hastings**  
**Subcommittee on Water and Power**  
**On Thursday, September 19, 2013**  
**1324 Longworth House Office Building**  
**Subcommittee on Water and Power Oversight Hearing on "Keeping Hydropower**  
**Affordable and Reliable: The Protection of Existing Hydropower Investments and the**  
**Promotion of New Development"**

Thank you, Chairman McClintock, for holding this important hearing today.

Hydropower has been and will continue to be an important part of our way of life in my central Washington congressional district and in the greater Pacific Northwest. Regionally, federal and non-federal dams produce over 70% of the power in Washington, 80% in Idaho and 60% in Oregon. A clean, renewable source itself, hydropower also serves as the enabling backup to intermittent energies like wind and solar.

Despite its longstanding success, hydropower and the multi-purpose dams that produce it continue to be under assault from litigation, regulation and federal bureaucratic centralization. Time and again, we have witnessed unnecessary spills and regulations ordered by activist Judges spurred on by serial litigants bent upon removing four perfectly functioning dams on the Snake River. And, this is despite the fact that the Columbia River system is enjoying record numbers of salmon returns.

Our existing hydropower-producing dams are slowly being put to death by a thousand cuts. That status quo is simply unacceptable. Other developed countries, such as Canada and Sweden, embrace clean and renewable hydro-electricity and make it a national policy to protect this valuable resource. We must do the same, and if it takes additional legislation to do it, then we will pursue this option.

Legislation must also promote hydropower. Conservation and efficiency are important parts of our energy strategy, but they will not meet demand in the long-term. We simply need to tap more of our existing non-powered and underutilized dams and canals and help facilitate new storage where necessary.

Yet, the current regulatory environment makes new hydropower generally "stagnant" in the words of one distinguished expert witness who testified before the Committee last

year. Unfortunately, a symbol of that regulatory dysfunction is currently playing out right now in my own congressional district in Okanogan County, Washington not far from the Canadian border where the Public Utility District has been trying to install a 9 megawatt hydropower facility at the century-old Enloe Dam.

This new hydropower development has been stuck in a regulatory morass for over eight and a half years. Despite the utility obtaining federal and state permits to construct and operate the dam, including approval from FERC, one federal agency has kept the utility from moving forward because that agency wants another regulatory bite at the apple. For those of you old enough to remember the Apollo space program, it took less time to put a man on the moon than it has taken to get federal approvals to put 9 megawatts at an existing dam that does not even have migratory salmon issues. As my constituent and our first witness, John Grubich of Okanogan PUD, will say in his testimony: "It shouldn't be this hard!" I agree completely, and I will continue to press the Interior Department to ensure that no further obstacles prevent this project from finally proceeding.

We have taken steps to promote small-scale federal hydropower with two bills sponsored by our Committee colleagues Scott Tipton and Steve Daines. But, the Enloe Dam example and testimony today from our witnesses tell me that the licensing/relicensing process for non-federal dams needs serious updating as well, especially as it relates to transparency and accountability from the federal land and fishery agencies which have the ability to hold projects hostage to bureaucratic whims.

This hearing is the first step towards that end in this Congress. Hydropower can and should be a larger piece of our energy pie. I look forward to working with today's witnesses and my colleagues on this important effort.

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