

Chairman Hastings' Rule Statement for H.R. 2842, the "Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2011"

Thank you Chairman Dreier and Ranking Member Slaughter for taking up this bill today to create new American jobs and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles to small hydropower production. H.R. 2842 passed out of the Natural Resources Committee with bipartisan support and I request a modified open rule.

House Republicans are committed to an 'all-of-the-above' approach to American energy. This bill reaffirms that commitment by expanding production of hydropower – a clean, renewable, low-cost emissions-free form of energy.

This bill is very simple. It cuts government red-tape, streamlines a duplicative regulatory process and reduces administrative costs for developing small canal and pipeline hydropower projects on existing, man-made Bureau of Reclamation facilities. Such man-made facilities are already on disturbed ground, have no environmental impact and have already gone through environmental review.

Outdated and unnecessary federal regulations should not stand in the way of clean and renewable American energy production.

H.R. 2842 means more rural American jobs, cheaper and cleaner electricity for families and small businesses, reduced reliance on fossil fuels and decreased dependence of foreign sources of energy.

I commend Committee Members Scott Tipton and Paul Gosar for spearheading this plan to get the federal government out of the way and allow for new renewable hydropower production.