

Statement of Congressman Scott Tipton
Monday March 5, 2012
Before the House Rules Committee
H.R. 2842, the “Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit
Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2012”

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your support of this legislation. I support a modified rule on H.R. 2842 and I encourage an open debate because I believe the merits of the bill will speak for themselves. H.R. 2842 is a bipartisan plan to streamline the regulatory process in order to create new American jobs and expand the production of clean renewable hydropower.

Many rural water and irrigation districts and electric utilities in western states seek to develop hydropower on Bureau of Reclamation water canals and pipelines, but over-burdensome and unnecessary regulations stand in the way and discourage investment in these projects. This legislation seeks to remove one major economic handcuff: duplicative environmental analysis. Even though the Reclamation conduit hydropower units covered by this bill are on previously disturbed ground within existing facilities that have already gone through federal environmental review, under current regulations another National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis must still be done to install small hydropower generators.

By eliminating this duplicative measure we can add power to the grid, provide an environment for job growth in rural America, and return revenues to the treasury.

I'm proud to offer this contribution to the House Republicans' all of the above plan for American energy development and I look forward to a spirited discussion tomorrow on how we can produce renewable energy while putting out people back to work.