



**HYDROPOWER  
REFORM  
COALITION**

*Putting water, wildlife,  
and people back in rivers.*

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

February 10, 2014

Via Electronic Transmission

**RE: Protect I-937 for jobs and the environment**

Dear Governor Inslee:

Washington's rivers have a significant stake in our renewable energy future. The Hydropower Reform Coalition is an association of more than 140 organizations representing more than one million conservationists, anglers, boaters, and homeowners nationwide that have effectively reduced the footprint of hydropower dams on rivers. As river, recreation and salmon advocates in the State of Washington, the members of the Hydropower Reform Coalition strongly support the voter-approved Clean Energy Initiative (I-937). The law encourages development in new energy technologies and has generated more than \$8 billion in investment, \$145.5 million in public revenue, and more than 3,800 jobs in rural and urban communities across the state. This initiative has been a good step forward in putting us on a path towards a clean energy future for present and future generations.

As we look to the future of renewable energy in Washington, we must preserve the integrity of the law, which requires a collaborative, broad-based approach. Unfortunately, uncoordinated, piecemeal changes proposed in this legislative session threaten to weaken this highly successful law. Such a piecemeal approach jeopardizes Washington's ability to reduce climate change emissions to state-mandated levels and become a leader in developing and utilizing clean energy technology.

Specific proposals that address hydropower efficiency upgrades and power from pipes, conduits and irrigation canals must be balanced with other modifications of the law to ensure success and avoid unintended problems. For these reasons, we have concerns over the isolated and short-sighted changes proposed under ESHB 1950, HB 2733, HB

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**Steering Committee:**

Alabama Rivers Alliance • American Rivers • American Whitewater • Appalachian Mountain Club • California HRC  
Coastal Conservation League • Friends of the River • Idaho Rivers United • Michigan HRC • Natural Heritage Institute  
New England FLOW • New York Rivers United • River Alliance of Wisconsin • Trout Unlimited

2676, SB 5992, and SSB 6058. While individual elements of these bills have merit, they need to be considered in a broader context.

Instead of a piecemeal approach, we urge members of the House and Senate to work together on a comprehensive approach to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy development. Such an approach and policy is the best way to meet the public's desire for a clean and affordable energy future, while also protecting the many benefits that derive from I-937.

We support the approach taken by Rep. Jeff Morris's HB 2183, which offers an opportunity to work together in an open and comprehensive manner and provide time and expertise for balanced changes to I-937. A collaborative process allows us to consider and move forward on a suite of smart hydropower concepts, including some of those considered in the individual bills referenced above, without undermining the value and original purposes of the law. Most importantly, adopting individual bills misdirects the dialogue and opens the door to harmful hydropower incentives that degrade Washington's outstanding rivers and streams.

Thank you for considering our concerns. While we support efforts to encourage the development of renewable energy sources, they must not be done in a way that will place additional stress on river systems and the multiple benefits our rivers provide the citizens of this state. For additional information, please see [www.hydroreform.org](http://www.hydroreform.org)

Sincerely,



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