

TO REQUIRE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COM-  
MISSION TO EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD DURING  
WHICH LICENSEES ARE REQUIRED TO COMMENCE  
CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN HYDROPOWER PROJECTS

FEBRUARY 2, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GUTHRIE, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2072]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred  
the bill (H.R. 2072) to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Com-  
mission to extend the time period during which licensees are re-  
quired to commence construction of certain hydropower projects,  
having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without  
amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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## PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 2072, To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects, was introduced by Representative Newhouse (R-WA) on March 11, 2025, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce on March 11, 2025. H.R. 2072 would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend the commencement of construction requirements for covered hydropower projects by no more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods.

## BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Hydropower is a critical part of the nation's energy mix, supplying clean, reliable power to approximately 30 million homes and businesses. Section 13 of the Federal Power Act requires that construction of a licensed project commence within two years from the issuance of the license.<sup>1</sup> Current law authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend this deadline for not more than 8 additional years if the extension is not "incompatible with public interests."<sup>2</sup>

However, due to COVID pandemic-related supply chain and labor challenges, plans to begin construction on several hydropower projects were halted. In fact, 37 unconstructed, FERC-licensed hydropower projects across 15 states are at risk of losing licenses if additional time is not granted.<sup>3</sup> Once constructed, these projects will provide energy imperative to winning the intelligence race, powering our communities, onshoring manufacturing, and lowering prices for consumers.

H.R. 2072 authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, after reasonable notice and for good cause shown, to extend construction deadlines for projects licensed prior to March 13, 2020. These additional extensions will not consist of more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods. On July 29, 2025, the Senate passed identical legislation, S. 1020, by unanimous consent.<sup>4</sup> The Committee finds this legislation will provide a necessary extension to impacted parties licensed to bring critical power online.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

On January 21, 2026, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 2072, without amendment, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 44 yeas and 0 nays.

## COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. 805.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> U.S. FED. ENERGY REGULATORY COMM'N. (FERC), *Complete list of Active Licenses* (Last updated 1/13/2026), <https://www.ferc.gov/licensing>.

<sup>4</sup> S. 1020, 119th Cong., *A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects* (as passed by the Senate, Jul. 29, 2025).

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
119TH CONGRESS  
ROLL CALL VOTE # 17**

**BILL:** H.R. 2072, To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

**AMENDMENT:** Final Passage

**DISPOSITION:** Agreed to, by a roll call vote of 44 ayes and 0 nays.

| REPRESENTATIVE    | YEAS | NAYS | PRESENT | REPRESENTATIVE    | YEAS | NAYS | PRESENT |
|-------------------|------|------|---------|-------------------|------|------|---------|
| Mr. Guthrie       |      |      |         | Mr. Pallone       | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Latta         | X    |      |         | Ms. DeGette       | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Griffith      | X    |      |         | Ms. Schakowsky    | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Bilirakis     | X    |      |         | Ms. Matsui        | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Hudson        | X    |      |         | Ms. Castor        | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Carter (GA)   | X    |      |         | Mr. Tonko         | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Palmer        |      |      |         | Ms. Clarke        | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Dunn          | X    |      |         | Mr. Ruiz          | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Crenshaw      | X    |      |         | Mr. Peters        | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Joyce         | X    |      |         | Mrs. Dingell      | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Weber         | X    |      |         | Mr. Veasey        |      |      |         |
| Mr. Allen         | X    |      |         | Ms. Kelly         |      |      |         |
| Mr. Balderson     | X    |      |         | Ms. Barragán      | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Fulcher       | X    |      |         | Mr. Soto          | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Pfluger       | X    |      |         | Ms. Schrier       | X    |      |         |
| Mrs. Harshbarger  | X    |      |         | Ms. Trahan        | X    |      |         |
| Mrs. Miller-Meeks | X    |      |         | Ms. Fletcher      | X    |      |         |
| Mrs. Cammack      | X    |      |         | Ms. Ocasio-Cortez | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Obernolte     | X    |      |         | Mr. Auchincloss   | X    |      |         |
| Mr. James         | X    |      |         | Mr. Carter (LA)   | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Bentz         | X    |      |         | Mr. Menendez      | X    |      |         |
| Mrs. Houchin      |      |      |         | Mr. Mullin        | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Fry           |      |      |         | Mr. Landsman      | X    |      |         |
| Ms. Lee           |      |      |         | Ms. McClellan     | X    |      |         |
| Mr. Langworthy    |      |      |         |                   |      |      |         |
| Mr. Kean          | X    |      |         |                   |      |      |         |
| Mr. Rulli         |      |      |         |                   |      |      |         |
| Mr. Evans         | X    |      |         |                   |      |      |         |
| Mr. Goldman       | X    |      |         |                   |      |      |         |
| Mrs. Fedorchak    |      |      |         |                   |      |      |         |

01/21/2026

## OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held (a) hearing(s) and made findings that are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY,  
AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 2072 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

## FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

## STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to extend the FERC commencement of construction requirement for certain hydropower projects.

## DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 2072 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

## RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following related hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 2072:

On February 5, 2025, the Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing on H.R. 2072. The title of the hearing was “Powering America’s Future: Unleashing American Energy.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Amanda Eversole, Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy Officer, American Petroleum Institute;
- Brigham McCown, Senior Fellow and Director, Initiative on American Energy Security, The Hudson Institute;
- Gary Arnold, Business Manager, Denver Pipefitters Local 208; and,
- Tyler O’Conner, Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP.

## COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congress-

sional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

#### EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 2072 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

##### *Section 1. Extension of time to commence construction of certain hydropower projects*

Section 1(a) defines a covered project as a hydropower project which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a license before March 13, 2020.

Section 1(b) authorizes FERC to extend the period during which the licensee is required to commence construction by an additional 6 years.

Section 1(c) stipulates that the extension shall not consist of more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods, begins on the date of the final extension granted under section 13 of the Federal Power Act, and ends on the date that is no more than 6 years after the latest date in which FERC was authorized to extend the period for commencing construction.

Section 1(d) additionally authorizes FERC to reinstate licenses for projects which have exceeded the period to commence construction after December 31, 2023 and before enactment.