

OPENING STATEMENT

I am pleased to be able to hold this hearing today on H.R. 2008, the Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act. This bill has broad bipartisan support because it will help develop clean hydropower in Utah and will help generate revenues for the government.

This piece of legislation raises questions in my mind. Why has hydropower not been developed in the Diamond Fork System to date? Are there lessons we can learn from the Diamond Fork System that would help us understand how to develop hydropower in the rest of the West?

There are many sites in the West where there is the potential to develop hydropower but we are not doing so. Hydropower is a cheap source of clean energy that can help America reduce carbon emissions and stimulates rural economies in the West. Congress needs to do everything it can to expand hydropower and to do so while protecting our environment. We do not need to construct more large-scale dams. We must focus on expanding hydropower by using the sites that we've already worked so hard to build.

Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers and I will continue to further our understanding of how our subcommittee can develop more hydropower at existing sites without harming the environment.

I now yield to my friend and Ranking Member, Cathy McMorris
Rodgers for any statement she may have.