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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAIR, INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

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SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION
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October 17, 2024

The Honorable Willie Phillips,
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

The Honorable Lindsey S. See
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

The Honorable David Rosner
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

The Honorable Mark Christie
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Commissioners,

I write in support of the Seminoe Pumped Storage Project in its application for an original major license pursuant to the Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) – 825(r). This project would be located at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Seminoe Reservoir on the North Platte River in Carbon County, Wyoming, approximately 35 miles northeast of Rawlins, Wyoming.

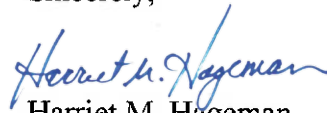
The Seminoe Project would utilize Reclamation's existing 1,017,280 acre-feet Seminoe reservoir on the North Platte River as the lower reservoir and would include a roller-compacted concrete dam impounding a 10,800-acre-foot upper reservoir. It includes three pump-turbines – each rated at 324 megawatts (MW) for a combined total generating capacity of 972 MW located in the underground powerhouse.

Pumped storage is necessary for enhancing the reliability and efficiency of the electrical grid by providing a means to store large amounts of energy for later use. The ability to quickly respond to fluctuations in energy demand helps stabilize the grid, prevent blackouts, and manage energy costs effectively. This project can potentially offer a cost-effective solution for energy management, allowing utilities to balance supply and demand while optimizing existing resources. As energy consumption patterns evolve, the role of pumped storage in ensuring a stable and efficient power supply becomes increasingly critical.

Pumped storage is the largest energy storage resource in the United States—accounting for more than 90% of the country's energy storage capacity. As energy demand increases, failure to match the supply with reliable baseload power results in power deficiencies and blackouts. This project can help us meet our rising demand. It also aligns with Wyoming's proud legacy of fueling America and providing reliable, affordable energy to every corner of our great State – and to the world. Wyoming's unique geographical features and natural resources make it an ideal location for such an endeavor. By capitalizing on these advantages, we are not only securing our nation's energy future but also providing new opportunities for job creation and economic development in Wyoming.

I recognize rPlus Hydro's Seminoe Pumped Storage project for its potential to leverage local energy generation through energy storage while creating hundreds of jobs during construction and operation. I support the Seminoe Pumped Storage Project's Final License Application filing to be viewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress