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1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

May 22, 2025

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

Chairman Christie:

I write to respectfully request a status update on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) pending license renewal for the Boyne River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 3409), operated by Boyne USA, Inc.

Located entirely on privately-owned land, the Boyne River project has for decades served as a model of how small-scale hydroelectric generation can support local economies while maintaining the highest standards of environmental stewardship and sustainability. Since its recommissioning in the 1980s, the project has provided approximately 10 percent of the power used by the adjacent Boyne Mountain Resort – reducing grid demand and supporting sustainable energy goals in the region.

Boyne USA, Inc. is currently awaiting a decision on its license renewal application. While I commend FERC's commitment to thoughtful and measured regulatory oversight – an essential pillar of good governance absent from the previous administration – the lack of a clear timeline or status update on the license renewal has created increasing financial uncertainty for Boyne USA, Inc. As such, I respectfully request FERC's assistance in providing the following:

1. A status update on the Boyne River Hydroelectric Project license renewal application.
2. An estimated timeline for when Boyne USA, Inc. may expect to receive a determination or formal notification of any new licensing terms or conditions.

With regard to my second question, I would like to highlight a concern related to potential new licensing conditions – specifically, any that would mandate expanded public access to private land. As you are aware, many hydroelectric projects are located on or adjacent to public lands. However, as noted above, the Boyne River project is situated entirely on private property.

Boyne USA, Inc. has already made significant investments in maintaining trails and providing public access downstream for recreational fishing. As such, any additional public access conditions proposed by FERC – particularly those that would require access to the dam structure, impoundment, or upstream private lands – could introduce serious safety and liability concerns, as well as potential environmental disturbances.



As FERC evaluates public input and considers any future licensing conditions, I would respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the unique private land context of this project, as well as the proactive steps already taken by Boyne USA, Inc. to provide reasonable public access while respecting private property rights and ensuring environmental integrity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or if further information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Bergman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "B".

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

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