



August 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I am writing on behalf of C-Power to urge you to lend your support for efforts to pass a clean energy innovation omnibus bill that includes HR 6084, the Water Power Research and Development Act of 2020, by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon. HR 6084 would reauthorize the marine energy activities of the U.S. Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) and is critical to both ensuring the advancement of the industry domestically and enabling its global competitiveness. Achieving those objectives directly benefits the US economy, the environment, and our energy security through the creation of high paying jobs and adding a clean energy resource to the domestic portfolio that is best able to replace legacy, carbon-based resources.

Marine energy utilizes advanced, pre-commercial technologies to generate clean power from waves, currents, tides, and in-river resources. It has significant global promise. Marine energy technologies also facilitate emerging, off-grid "Blue Economy" market opportunities, such as remote underwater vehicle charging, autonomous sensors, and aquaculture. For instance, the U.S. Navy is exploring opportunities for marine energy devices to provide power for maritime security systems, at-sea persistent surveillance, and communications. Finally, marine energy can help revitalize our nation's ports and shipyards as devices can be built and maintained near generation sites.

C-Power is a leading company in the industry, preparing to launch its first products on the global market. We see firsthand the impact of foreign governments investing hundreds of millions of dollars into the development and commercialization of their domestic technologies. The US is falling behind. HR 6084 helps to level the global playing field. One of the most significant challenges to the domestic marine energy industry is the need to continually attract private investment during the pre-commercial stages of technology development. Due to the timelines required and technical risk involved, private capital will not act as the sole source of funding for critical early stage research and innovation efforts. As with other more mature power generation technologies, a significant and consistent level of federal support is key to attracting private capital and igniting commercialization of the marine energy industry.

C-Power was a founding member of the National Hydropower Association's (NHA) Marine Energy Council. Collectively, the marine energy industry, the Council, and the NHA have been working for almost ten years to reauthorize the research and development activities of the WPTO, since it was first authorized in the 2007 energy bill; that authorization lapsed after Fiscal Year 2012. We urge you to provide floor time for a clean energy innovation omnibus bill, so we can move HR 6084 forward. I would be very pleased to provide additional information to your staff on this important legislation.

Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Reenst Lesemann', is written over a horizontal line.

A. Reenst Lesemann  
CEO