I voted Yes on H.R. 5892, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act.

This bill would streamline the permitting and approval process for new small hydropower facilities. Among other improvements to the regulatory process, it exempts small hydropower projects with a generating capacity of less than 10 megawatts from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing requirements. Under current law, projects of less than five megawatts are already exempted.

Today, hydropower provides 8 percent of the electricity in the United States, much of which comes from small-generating units. It is estimated that our nation could add more than 65,000 megawatts in power generation through the expansion of hydropower projects.

This legislation is intended to improve the regulatory process to bring into production several hundred proposed hydropower projects that have pending license or permit applications. I supported this legislation because bringing more hydropower into generation can increase American energy independence while creating new jobs in the renewable energy sector.

The bill was approved by a vote of 372 – 0.