



NRECA 2017 Legislative Conference

Support RUS Electric Loan Program

The Rural Utilities Service Electric Loan Program provides affordable capital to electric cooperatives for infrastructure development. The program has a track record of success and also reduces the federal deficit.

Ask your Senators to sign the Inhofe-Heitkamp letter supporting the RUS electric loan program.

Support Electric Cooperative Tax Priorities

Co-ops help their members save energy and money by promoting highly-efficient geothermal heat pumps. At the end of 2015, Congress extended tax credits for wind and solar energy. However, tax credits for geothermal heat pumps were not extended. A bill introduced by Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) and Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA), extends the credits for geothermal to provide parity with wind and solar technologies.

Ask your Representative to cosponsor HR 1090, the Technologies for Energy Security Act.

Congressional action is needed regarding nuclear production tax credits (PTCs). Existing law creates inequities among nuclear project stakeholders, allowing for profit entities to utilize tax credits, while not for profits are not able to realize cost savings in the same manner. To address this disparity, legislation was introduced in the House and Senate - H.R. 1551 sponsored by Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC) and S. 666 sponsored by Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC).

Urge your Senator to cosponsor S. 666 and your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 1551.

Legislation to spur commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology is being championed by Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX) and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND). The legislation will make the existing federal CCS incentive (the "Section 45Q" tax credit) permanent while increasing its value. The bills provide incentives needed for industry to invest in CCS.

Urge your Representative and Senators to cosponsor the CCS technology tax credit bill sponsored by Rep. Conaway and Sen. Heitkamp.

Support Improved Federal Land Management Policies

Federal land management policies make it difficult for co-ops to maintain rights-of-way on or near federal property. Reforms are necessary to help co-ops manage vegetation to ensure reliability.

Legislation introduced by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) and Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) streamlines the rights-of-way review process and reduces the risk of liability.

Ask your Representative to cosponsor the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act.

Support Endangered Species Act Reform

Electric cooperatives are increasingly impacted by decisions to list species as threatened or endangered. Once a species is listed, ESA compliance impacts the ability of co-ops to site and maintain power lines. We support efforts to make the ESA more efficient, effective, and less costly.

Congress should modernize the ESA to require greater transparency and reduce incentives for abuse of the law.

Several Congressional leaders are developing legislation to reform the ESA, and we expect bills to be introduced this spring or summer.

Ask your Representative to cosponsor legislation to reform the ESA when it is introduced later this year.

Notes: _____



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