



The National Resolutions Committee Report and 2020 Compendium of Proposed Resolutions

The National Resolutions Committee met virtually on June 26, 2020. A recording of the meeting is [available to view on Cooperative.com](#) as is the full text of each proposal submitted by the membership.¹

The Committee has recommended a proposed restructure of the member resolutions and booklet, including 10 proposed new “policy statement” resolutions summarizing the memberships’ intent and goals, the deletion of 21 existing resolutions that have been merged or otherwise incorporated into the new policy statement resolutions or existing resolutions, and 17 proposed amendments to existing resolutions. The Committee also recommends the adoption of four brand new resolutions. Explanations of the Committee’s recommendations precede the language of each proposal in the Compendium below.

The proposals will be considered at the 2020 Online Regional Meetings. The Committee recommends the use of consent agendas to assist the regional resolutions committees and voting delegates in considering this large volume of material virtually, and for consistency with how proposals are presented at the NRECA Annual Business Meeting.

NRECA and the Committee continually strive to make the resolutions process open and accessible to the membership. Members submitting proposals were invited to join the meeting to present and discuss their submissions with the Committee. This allows for a dialogue and a better understanding of members’ ideas. Together, the Committee and members were able to collaborate on the final language presented in the Compendium.

Proposed Restructure

By email on June 11, 2020, NRECA voting members received a proposed restructure of the member resolutions and booklet with an invitation to provide input to the Committee. The Committee was pleased to receive comments from members. The goal of the restructure is to streamline existing resolutions and create a booklet of “actionable, relevant, time sensitive resolutions that provide guidance for NRECA internally, or proper messaging externally, that is more navigable, while not impairing the ability of the membership to advance ideas, initiatives, or direction that are not otherwise being taken into consideration by NRECA.”²

¹ Due to a technical issue, the recording audio was lost for approximately 15 minutes as the Committee considered member submissions “Climate Issues” and “Environmental Externalities.” This report and Compendium includes the Committee’s actions and explanations.

² A Resolutions Committee subcommittee proposed the restructure and defined the above goal.

The proposed restructure includes:

- (1) revised category headings focusing on key aspects of the electric cooperative industry;
- (2) new resolutions at the beginning of each category intended to serve as broad “policy statement” resolutions summarizing the memberships’ intent and goals for each category, followed by individual resolutions that address specific aspects of the category;
- (3) many existing resolutions retained “as is” due to the complexity and highly technical nature of certain issues (such as power supply and delivery), or due to the amount of recent attention on, and significance of, certain issues (such as retail broadband issues);
- (4) deleting several existing resolutions that the Committee believes are adequately addressed by the new policy statement resolutions at the beginning of the categories;
- (5) merging existing resolutions that address similar topics;
- (6) standardizing the following terms, where appropriate: consumer-member; NRECA member; and nonprofit;³ and
- (7) omitting the existing policy background statements.⁴

Importantly, although 21 resolutions are recommended for deletion, the Committee feels strongly that nothing is “lost” since the intent, and in some cases the language, of those resolutions are captured in the new policy statement resolutions and mergers of existing resolutions.

As part of the restructure, the Committee also approved numerous nonsubstantive amendments which are not included in the Compendium, but which will be forwarded to the NRECA Member Standing Committees for their consideration in January 2021. Nonsubstantive amendments will be proposed for voting delegates’ consideration at, and made available prior to, the 2021 NRECA Annual Business Meeting.

Additionally, as part of the proposed restructure, resolutions will be numbered for ease of reference in the 2021 member resolutions booklet. Numbers listed in the Compendium are included for reference purposes for the 2020 Online Regional Meetings. New numbers will be assigned in the 2021 NRECA Annual Business Meeting materials and in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Member Proposals Not Advanced to the Online Regional Meetings

The Committee includes the following brief explanations on why the following proposals are not included in the 2020 Compendium of Proposed Resolutions. These proposals are available for review [on the Resolutions Committee page of Cooperative.com](#). As a reminder, any NRECA voting member may re-introduce these concepts (or any new proposals) for consideration during the Online Regional Meeting. **In light of the shift to online regional meetings, and to provide ample time for all regional committees to consider new proposals members must submit proposals or proposed amendments to resolutions@nreca.coop by October 1.** Proposals will be posted [on the member resolutions Regional Meeting page on Cooperative.com as they are](#)

³ The term “nonprofit” is used generally and for consistency in NRECA member resolutions and does not indicate whether an electric cooperative meets a state law definition of nonprofit, not-for-profit, or similar term.

⁴ In June 2020, the NRECA Board of Directors amended its member resolutions policy to permit the Resolutions Committee to determine whether to include background statements. The Committee has determined that background statements are not necessary for the Compendium and does not expect to include background statements unless a particular topic warrants providing additional information. Historical background statements will remain available on Cooperative.com.

[received](#). Watch for more information regarding the resolutions process at the 2020 Online Regional Meetings in the coming weeks.

Proposed amendment to “Employee Retirement Benefits,” submitted by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association and the 25 members of their Legislative and Regulatory Committee. Following a lengthy discussion with the submitting member and NRECA staff regarding the NRECA implementation of provisions included in the SECURE Act of 2019 and its impacts on the costs associated with the NRECA Retirement Security Plan (RS Plan), the Committee decided against advancing the amendment submitted by the member. The Committee and member discussed how the proposed amendment related to concerns with communications and operational aspects of administering the RS Plan and those concerns were conveyed to staff during the discussion. Further, with the member’s input, the Committee determined to add the amendment presented in the Compendium as Proposed Resolution “1.13 Employee Retirement Benefits.”

Proposed amendment to “Renewable and Environmentally Favorable Energy,” submitted by Golden State Power Cooperative, California. The Committee decided against changing “favorable” to “preferable” as it felt this was a wording preference. In addition to the member proposal, the Committee discussed whether to separate ethanol and biofuels from this existing resolution but determined not to propose language at this time. The Committee encourages members interested in these issues to consider proposing language during the 2020 Online Regional Meetings. The standing committees may also revisit this issue at the January 2021 meeting.

Proposed New Resolution “Climate Issues,” submitted by Washington Electric Cooperative, Vermont. Roger Fox, Vice President and Director with the submitting system, presented the proposal to the Committee. The Committee recognizes this issue continues to be of importance to the membership as there has been significant discussion on this topic over the last few years. The Committee determined that the existing resolution, “Greenhouse Gas Emissions,” sufficiently covers this issue. Note, “Greenhouse Gas Emissions” is not included in the Compendium as the Committee is not proposing any substantive amendments.⁵ The Committee noted that the submitting system could resubmit the proposal for consideration at the 2020 Online Regional Meetings.

Proposed new resolution, “Supporting Fair and Effective Pole Attachment Regulation,” submitted by Georgia EMC and supported by 41 Georgia member systems. Dennis Chastain, President and CEO of the submitting system presented this proposed new resolution to the Committee. The Committee recognized the importance of this issue as some states have “reverse-preempted” the Federal Communications Commission’s pole attachment jurisdiction which can result in state regulation of electric cooperative pole attachments. The Committee also recognized the potential risk of jeopardizing the current electric cooperative federal pole attachment exemption if NRECA advocates for federal legislative reforms. The Committee determined the language in the proposed new policy statement resolution “Telecommunications and Technology Utilization” is sufficient and chose not to forward this

⁵ The Committee plans to propose nonsubstantive amendments to change “member-owners” to “consumer-members” for consideration at the 2021 NRECA Annual Business Meeting.

proposal. The Committee noted that the submitting system could revise its proposal and submit it for consideration at the 2020 Online Regional Meetings.

In Conclusion

The Committee hopes that the membership finds this report informative. We encourage you to discuss the proposed restructure and resolutions with your boards and state associations. If you have questions, please contact resolutions@nreca.coop.

We also encourage you to add your cooperative's input to these proposals and the member resolutions process by participating during the Online Regional Meeting week October 12-16. Be sure your system [certifies a voting delegate](#) to vote at your region's business meeting. Please contact NRECA's Membership Department at (703) 907-5868 or VotingDelegates@nreca.coop if you have questions.

Mac McLennan
Chair

Lisa Johnson
Vice Chair

National Resolutions Committee

Chair (2020): Mac McLennan, Region 6
Vice Chair (2020): Lisa Johnson, Region 2

Lisa Johnson, General Manager and CEO Seminole Electric Cooperative, Florida	Region 2	Legislative Chair
Matt Boshaw, General Manager and CEO Central Electric Cooperative, Pennsylvania	Region 1	Legislative Vice Chair
Pat O’Loughlin, President and CEO Ohio REC and Buckeye Power, Ohio	Region 4	Regulatory Chair
Mac McLennan, President and CEO Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Dakota	Region 6	Regulatory Vice Chair
Tom Houston, General Manager Webster Electric Cooperative, Missouri	Region 8	CMEC Chair
Gary Wood, President and CEO Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, Virginia	Region 1	CMEC Vice Chair
Chris Perry, President and CEO Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, Kentucky	Region 3	Regional Representative Legislative Member
Gary Martin, Director Menard Electric Cooperative, Illinois	Region 5	Regional Representative Regulatory Member
Chad Waldow, General Manager and CEO Stanton County Public Power District, Nebraska	Region 7	Regional Representative Legislative Member
Mark Hayden, General Manager and CEO Missoula Electric Cooperative, Montana	Region 9	Regional Representative Legislative Member
Tyler Carlson, General Manager and CEO Mohave Electric Cooperative, Arizona	Region 10	Regional Representative Regulatory Committee

The Committee’s current term runs until the conclusion of the 2021 NRECA Annual Meeting. The committee is comprised of the chairs and vice chairs of each of the three NRECA Member Standing Committees – Legislative; Regulatory; Cooperative Management, Employment and Community (CMEC). To ensure each Region is represented, the NRECA President appoints additional individuals from the Standing Committees. To contact the committee, please email resolutions@nreca.coop.

NRECA Online Regional Meetings



To be considered by:

**Regions 1 - 10
Online Meetings – October 12-13, 2020**

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Member Resolutions at 2020 NRECA Online Regional Meetings

All NRECA voting member directors and employees are invited to attend and participate in the online regional resolutions committee meetings and business meetings for their respective regions. Please visit Cooperative.com for the [schedule](#) and the [latest information about how to participate](#). **Members, particularly voting delegates, are strongly encouraged to participate in the meetings from a location with a reliable and fast internet connection.**

Due to the online format and schedule:

- Resolutions adopted by each region will not be forwarded to subsequent regions;
- Voting member systems are asked to **submit any proposals for the regional resolutions committees to resolutions@nreca.coop by October 1;**
- NRECA will collect and publish all membership submissions prior to the 2020 regional meetings to ensure each regional resolutions committee can consider any proposal;
- NRECA will post each region's business meeting materials on Cooperative.com by end of day Tuesday, October 13; and
- To preserve the tradition of considering new business during the business meeting and ensure an efficient online meeting, member systems and voting delegates are asked to **submit any proposed new resolution (that is not forwarded by the regional resolutions committee) to resolutions@nreca.coop no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern (7:00 p.m. Eastern for Alaska and Hawaii only, to accommodate time zones) on the evening before the respective region's business meeting;** a voting delegate must still move and second the resolution during the business meeting.

The 2020 Compendium of Proposed Resolutions includes a restructure of the existing member resolutions and the resolutions booklet. The purpose of the proposed restructure is to achieve "actionable, relevant, time sensitive resolutions" and a more navigable booklet, "while not impairing the ability of the membership to advance ideas, initiatives, or direction." (Mac McLennan, Chair, National Resolutions Committee)

The 2020 Compendium:

- Proposes 10 new "policy statement" resolutions summarizing members' intent and goals;
- Retains many existing resolutions "as is" due to the complexity and highly technical nature of certain issues, or due to the significance of certain issues;
- Proposes to merge existing resolutions that address similar topics;
- Proposes to delete 21 existing resolutions that are being merged or otherwise adequately addressed in the policy statement resolutions; and
- Omits the existing policy background statements.

As part of the restructure, numerous nonsubstantive amendments were approved in June by the National Resolutions Committee. These proposed amendments are not included in the Compendium, but will be considered by delegates at the 2021 NRECA Annual Business Meeting.

Additionally, as part of the proposed restructure, resolutions will be numbered for ease of reference in future member resolutions booklets. Numbers listed in the Compendium are included for reference purposes for the 2020 Online Regional Meetings. New numbers will be assigned in the 2021 NRECA Annual Business Meeting materials and in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Quick Reference Guide to Compendium

This guide is intended to help you easily see what the National Resolutions Committee is recommending for each proposed resolution within the 2020 Compendium of Proposed Resolutions. The “Recommended Action” column shows the Committee’s recommendation for the Regional Resolutions Committees’ consideration. An explanation precedes each proposed resolution in this Compendium to provide additional information regarding the Committee’s recommendations.

Brand new proposed resolutions are listed first in the chart below. Page numbers to the 2020 Member Resolutions booklet are provided so you can review the original language, if applicable.

The 2020 Member Resolutions booklet is available for download at:

<https://www.cooperative.com/nreca/member-resolutions/Documents/Secure/2020%20Member%20Resolutions.pdf>.

Resolution Title	2020 Member Resolutions Booklet	Recommended Action	2020 Compendium
Proposed New Resolution – 3 The Cooperative Business Model	N/A	Adopt	p. 23
Proposed New Resolution – 4 Cooperative Governance and Leadership	N/A	Adopt	p. 24
Proposed New Resolution – 5 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	N/A	Adopt	p. 25
Proposed New Resolution – 6 Consumer-Member Relationship	N/A	Adopt	p. 26
Proposed New Resolution – 7 Workforce Safety, Security, and Operations Management	N/A	Adopt	p. 27
Proposed New Resolution – 8 Security Issues	N/A	Adopt	p. 28
Proposed New Resolution – 9 Investment and Financial Matters	N/A	Adopt	p. 29
Proposed New Resolution – 10 Power Supply	N/A	Adopt	p. 30

Proposed New Resolution – 11 Supporting a Legislative Solution to Protect the Multipurpose Benefits of the Dams that Make Up the Federal Columbia River Power System	N/A	Adopt	p. 31
Proposed New Resolution – 12 Power Delivery	N/A	Adopt	p. 32
Proposed New Resolution – 13 Seeking Cooperation of Congress and Federal Agencies to Help Electric Co-ops Reduce the Risk of Wildfires	N/A	Adopt	p. 33
Proposed New Resolution – 14 Energy Markets and Industry Structure	N/A	Adopt	p. 34
Proposed New Resolution – 15 Environmental	N/A	Adopt	p. 35
Proposed New Resolution – 16 Telecommunications and Technology Utilization	N/A	Adopt	p. 36
1.1 NRECA and America’s Electric Cooperatives	p. 1	Amend	p. 8
1.2 Educating our Youth and the Washington Youth Tour	p. 22	Amend	p. 9
1.3 Support for NRECA International	p. 24	Amend (Merged)	p. 9
1.4 Support of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation	p. 25	Amend	p. 10
1.5 Stranded Assets and Economic Impacts	p. 16	Amend	p. 10
1.6 Importance of Effective Legal Guidance for Electric Cooperatives	p. 25	Amend	p. 11
1.7 Legal and Judicial Recognition of Consumer-Owned and Accountable Businesses	p. 12	Amend (Merged)	p. 11

1.8 Regulatory Reform and Fairness in Application	p. 26	Amend (Merged)	pp. 11-12
1.9 Developing New Consumer-Centric Business Models	p. 13	Amend (Merged)	p. 12
1.10 Cooperative Communications Programs	p. 15	Amend (Merged)	p. 12
1.11 Touchstone Energy®	p. 24	Amend	p. 13
1.12 Support of RE Magazine, Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages	p. 15	Amend (Merged)	p. 13
1.13 Employee Retirement Benefits	p. 12	Amend	p. 14
1.14 Support for USDA Rural Development Programs for a Strong Rural America	p. 24	Amend (Merged)	p. 14
1.15 Responsible Maintenance of Cooperative Infrastructure Through Use of Chemicals	p. 18	Amend	p. 14
1.16 Electric Industry Restructuring	p. 7	Amend	p. 15
1.17 Environmental Externalities	p. 10	Amend	p. 15
2.1 Rural Electric Mascot Willie Wiredhand	p. 15	Oppose	p. 17
2.2 Cooperation Among Cooperatives	p. 24	Oppose	p. 17
2.3 Public Power Support	p. 25	Oppose	p. 17
2.4 Assistance to Puerto Rico	p. 24	Oppose (Merged)	p. 17
2.5 Tort Reform	p. 12	Oppose (Merged)	p. 18
2.6 Citizens' Lawsuits	p. 12	Oppose (Merged)	p. 18
2.7 Equal Access to Justice Act	p. 12	Oppose (Merged)	p. 18
2.8 Impact of Regulations on NRECA Members	p.18	Oppose (Merged)	p. 18

2.9 Memberships' Need for Diversified Services	p. 22	Oppose (Merged)	p. 19
2.10 Support of Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages	p. 15	Oppose (Merged)	p. 19
2.11 Rural Electric Magazine, Electric.coop, and Cooperative.com	p. 15	Oppose (Merged)	p. 19
2.12 Postal Legislation	p. 15	Oppose (Merged)	pp. 19-20
2.13 Investment to Strengthen Rural America	p. 25	Oppose (Merged)	p. 20
2.14 Fuel Mix, Including Renewables	p. 6	Oppose	p. 20
2.15 Ensuring Adequate Federal Funds to Combat Wildfires	p. 20	Oppose (Merged)	p. 20
2.16 Public and Member Relations Aspects of Environmental Issues	p. 14	Oppose (Merged)	pp. 20-21
2.17 Telecommunications Services for Rural America	p. 19	Oppose	p. 21
2.18 Support of Utilities Technology Council	p. 25	Oppose	p. 21
2.19 National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative Legislative Issues	p. 25	Oppose	p. 22
2.20 Communications Spectrum	p. 20	Oppose	p. 22
2.21 Safeguarding Local Control – FCC and Pole Attachments	p. 21	Oppose	p. 22

Consent Agenda to Adopt – Proposed Resolution 1

Any Voting Delegate may remove a resolution from the Consent Agenda to have it considered individually.

The full text of each resolution follows this list. For amendments to existing resolutions, deletions are shown as ~~striketroughs~~, and new language is underlined.

An explanation of the Committee’s actions is included before each proposal.

The Resolutions Committee forwards the following proposed resolutions with a recommendation for adoption:

- 1.1 NRECA and America’s Electric Cooperatives
- 1.2 Educating our Youth and the Washington Youth Tour
- 1.3 Support for NRECA International
- 1.4 Support of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation
- 1.5 Stranded Assets and Economic Impacts
- 1.6 Importance of Effective Legal Guidance for Electric Cooperatives
- 1.7 Legal and Judicial Recognition of Consumer-Owned and Accountable Businesses
- 1.8 Regulatory Reform and Fairness in Application
- 1.9 Developing New Consumer-Centric Business Models
- 1.10 Cooperative Communications Programs
- 1.11 Touchstone Energy®
- 1.12 Support of RE Magazine, Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages
- 1.13 Employee Retirement Benefits
- 1.14 Support for USDA Rural Development Programs for a Strong Rural America
- 1.15 Responsible Maintenance of Cooperative Infrastructure Through Use of Chemicals
- 1.16 Electric Industry Restructuring
- 1.17 Environmental Externalities

1.1 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment as presented. The Committee deleted the second paragraph since the language is now used in the new “Consumer-Member Relationship” resolution policy statement, presented as Proposed New Resolution 6. The Committee also deleted the list of seven cooperative principles and added a reference to seven cooperative principles in first paragraph. If the proposed amendments are adopted, the list of seven cooperative principles will be included as an appendix item in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

1.1 NRECA and America’s Electric Cooperatives

The NRECA Member Resolutions are foundational documents which guide the activity and advocacy of the national organization for America’s Electric Cooperatives. The issues NRECA’s members face are complex and can affect individual electric cooperatives differently. However, electric cooperatives are **guided by the seven cooperative principles, and** united in their mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric power to ~~member-owners~~ **consumer-members**. They work ~~together~~ to maintain adequate energy capacity, meet ~~member-owners~~ **consumer-members**’ needs for access to electricity, provide leadership in communities, and protect the environment. NRECA supports all of its members in their efforts to meet those objectives and works to establish commonsense priorities through enactment of balanced policies. NRECA’s members speak with one voice through the Member Resolutions.

~~A crucial element of the electric cooperative model depends on an engaged relationship with energy consumers. By working cooperatively to meet member needs, America’s Electric Cooperatives support consumers who join together to create and operate member-owned, not-for-profit utilities. We promote the concept of a consumer-centric utility. Furthermore, NRECA enables collaboration to occur among its membership in the interest of serving these communities of energy consumers. This activity may take the form of additional utility products or consumer services, community economic development, technology innovation, strong governance and strategic execution, or mutual support for other shared goals. The power of NRECA and America’s Electric Cooperatives resides in the participatory, cooperative model and the engaged members who devote their time, effort and talent to these endeavors.~~

~~THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES~~

- ~~• ***Voluntary and Open Membership***—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership;~~
- ~~• ***Democratic Member Control***—Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions;~~
- ~~• ***Member Economic Participation***—Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative;~~
- ~~• ***Autonomy and Independence***—Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members;~~
- ~~• ***Education, Training and Information***—Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives;~~

- ~~• *Cooperation Among Cooperatives* — Cooperatives serve members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together; and~~
- ~~• *Concern for Community* — While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.~~

1.2 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment as presented. The Committee added language regarding the history and value of youth programs and language explaining how this resolution supports the cooperative business model. Additionally, the Committee made minor edits to streamline the resolution.

1.2 Educating our Youth and the Washington Youth Tour

The youth of America are the future of the cooperative way of life. Engaging these future leaders and helping shape the leadership of future cooperatives and our nation is a cornerstone of the cooperative business model. We urge NRECA to continue to sponsor and support youth programs, including the Washington Youth Tour and Youth Leadership Council, and to support and encourage members' complementary programs to teach the rural electric system history and electric grid operations ~~the development of complementary programs by its member systems.~~ We also ~~urge NRECA in all its youth programs to teach about rural electric cooperatives and the realities of operating an electric grid, which provides affordable and reliable electric power, and to work with member systems to develop educational materials and activities geared toward youth.~~ We encourage NRECA to engage like-minded organizations, including universities, ~~to develop programs that highlight the organization and benefits of electric cooperatives and public power districts and the realities of operating an electric grid.~~ We further urge NRECA to develop processes to maintain relationships with the youth program participants as they become tomorrow's leaders.

1.3 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which merges the intent of existing resolution "2.4 Assistance to Puerto Rico" and adds language explaining the value of the cooperative business model around the world.

1.3 Support for NRECA International

America's Electric Cooperatives' support of the development of utility systems governed by the cooperative business model around the world is essential to quality of life, economic prosperity and environmental stewardship in developing countries, and creating strong ties to the United States which can benefit our national security. It also demonstrates the value of the cooperative model for those not familiar with the cooperative movement.

We urge NRECA to work with Congress and the Administration to secure sufficient funding for rural electrification in the U.S. government's foreign assistance program and that this funding be directed through NRECA International. Leveraging federal funding and charitable donations of time, money and materials from America's Electric Cooperatives, we urge

NRECA and NRECA International to provide assistance and support to communities and organizations in territories of the U.S. and other countries that are exploring the creation and development of electric cooperatives.

1.4 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which includes language submitted by Licking Rural Electrification, Ohio. The Committee added language regarding CFC's history and how its creation serves as an example of the benefits of the cooperative business model, as well as language emphasizing the importance of protecting electric cooperatives access to capital. The Committee also accepted various language submitted by Licking Rural Electrification which includes that CFC is wholly owned and controlled by rural electric systems.

1.4 Support of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

A prime example of the cooperative business model at work is the creation of a member-owned, nonprofit financing cooperative by NRECA in the 1960s charged with raising funds from the capital markets on behalf of electric cooperatives. We urge NRECA's continued support of t
The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) remains the only lending institution wholly owned and controlled by as an important lender for many rural electric systems cooperatives. We urge NRECA to oppose legislation that would substantially damage CFC and put at risk the investment of its member systems. We urge NRECA to continue to protect the ability of electric cooperatives to secure their own, private financing through CFC and to oppose legislation and tax policy that would jeopardize this ability.

1.5 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which includes “local industries as well as” submitted by Golden State Power Cooperative, California. The Committee added language explaining the importance of the cooperative business model to America.

1.5 Stranded Assets and Economic Impacts

The cooperative business model is dependent on a vibrant rural America and cooperatives in local communities. Urban America is dependent on rural America for national security, food, water, and energy resources facilitated by America's Electric Cooperatives. We urge NRECA to work with its members and other appropriate stakeholders to support ~~recovery efforts by~~ rural communities that are significantly and economically impacted by federal policies that result in the stranding of **local industries as well as** electric generation, transmission and distribution assets built to serve those rural communities.

1.6 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment to reflect the role of attorneys in cooperatives' lawful governance and operations, while also promoting and supporting the Electric Cooperative Bar Association.

1.6 Support for Electric Cooperative Bar Association and Lawyers' Activities Importance of Effective Legal Guidance for Electric Cooperatives

~~We urge NRECA to continue to support and urge all member systems to encourage their attorneys and paralegals to join the Electric Cooperative Bar Association and to attend continuing legal education seminars affecting the rural electrification program, as well as other technical programs that will enhance their understanding of the business and legal issues confronting the cooperatives they represent.~~

We urge NRECA to continue supporting the role of attorneys in the efficient, effective, and lawful governance and operations of electric cooperatives.

We also urge NRECA to continue administering, and urge electric cooperatives to support their attorneys' and paralegals' membership in, the Electric Cooperative Bar Association. ECBA provides its members with legal resources and peer-to-peer learning and communication opportunities. We further urge NRECA to continue providing, and encourage electric cooperative attorneys to attend or subscribe to, legal seminars and publications to enhance their understanding of the legal and business issues confronting their cooperative clients.

1.7 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this resolution which merges the intent of, and language from, existing resolutions "2.5 Tort Reform," "2.6 Citizens' Lawsuits," and "2.7 Equal Access to Justice Act" and adds a new, more relevant title.

1.7 Legal and Judicial Recognition of Consumer-Owned and Accountable Businesses

We urge NRECA to support judicial and legal reform efforts that ensure the interests of consumers are fairly and transparently represented, including:

- Tort reform legislation that would provide balance in our judicial system that has been overburdened with costly lawsuits.
- Legislation to modify federal agency procedures that allow for what is commonly called "Sue-and-Settle" citizen lawsuits to allow all stakeholders the opportunity to be informed and heard throughout the process.
- Tracking and reporting requirements for all Equal Access to Justice Act reimbursements to attorneys and creation of a searchable, online database of all EAJA payments.

1.8 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which merges the intent of existing resolution "2.8 Impact of Regulations on NRECA," includes streamlining amendments, and amends the title to better convey the intent of the resolution.

179 **1.8 Regulatory Reform and Fairness in Application**

180 We urge NRECA to support reform of the federal regulatory process to make the
181 development of regulations more accountable and balanced to the best interests of the country by
182 better recognizing costs imposed by regulation, weighing costs against benefits, and improving
183 the checks and balances within the process. We believe regulations should not stifle innovation
184 and cause excessive and unjustified financial and other burdens on those affected by them,
185 particularly smaller and nonprofit entities including electric cooperatives, and should have
186 the e Costs and benefits of proposed regulations should be reviewed and affirmed in an open
187 and transparent process that considers potentially disproportionate burdens on smaller
188 entities.

192 **1.9 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed
193 amendment which merges the language of existing resolution “2.9 Members' Need for
194 Diversified Services” to the end of the resolution and includes minor edits for clarity and
195 consistency.

197 **1.9 Developing New Consumer-Centric Business Models**

198 We urge NRECA to identify, educate and recommend potential business models or
199 processes for electric cooperatives to consider in adapting to the ongoing evolution from a
200 commodity-centric model to a consumer-centric model, that not only. The consumer-centric
201 model provides consumer-members with safe, reliable, affordable electric service but also and
202 offers other related products and services that increase consumer-member value while
203 optimizing the entire system, including distributed energy resources, for the benefit of all of a
204 cooperative’s consumer-members-owners. Our goal is to place the cooperative community in
205 the best position possible to deal with the ever-changing energy markets, technology, consumer
206 expectations, and political and social landscapes.

207 We urge NRECA to oppose any legislation or regulation that would limit a
208 cooperative’s ability to engage in a specific business enterprise that might add value for the
209 benefit of the consumer-members and the local community.

213 **1.10 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed
214 amendment which merges the intent of existing resolution “2.16 Public and Member Relations
215 Aspects of Environmental Issues,” adds new language addressing crisis communications, and
216 includes minor amendments for clarity and consistency.

218 **1.10 Cooperative Communications Programs**

219 We urge NRECA to encourage rural electric systems to participate in strategic
220 communications and outreach programs that are strategically planned, consumer-member
221 responsive and carefully designed to win the loyalty of and raise engagement among all
222 consumer-members-owners. We further urge NRECA to encourage rural electric systems to
223 measure, monitor, and evaluate “satisfaction” levels of their consumer-members-owners?
224 satisfaction as well as their “perceived value of membership” in a cooperative.

To maintain the highest satisfaction level among its consumer-members, we urge NRECA to support electric cooperatives and statewide organizations in developing proactive and crisis communications strategies to foster prompt, clear, and forthright communications with consumer-members, the public, and opinion leaders related to environmental matters, events of public interest or in the wake of natural disasters.

1.11 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which includes language previously proposed by Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives (OEC) in June 2019 and January 2020, and presented by OEC Vice President of Statewide Services Doug Miller who also serves as Touchstone Energy® Cooperative President.

1.11 Touchstone Energy®

We urge NRECA to ~~encourage continue encouraging~~ electric cooperatives to join the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives ~~already united under a single national brand~~ **and to use the resources and partnerships this national network provides to help Touchstone Energy members and their employees better engage and serve their consumer-members. We further urge NRECA and Touchstone Energy to work collaboratively so members can maximize the value of membership in each organization.**

1.12 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this resolution which reformats and merges existing resolutions “2.10 Support of Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages,” “2.11 Rural Electric Magazine, Electric.coop, and Cooperative.com,” and “2.12 Postal Legislation.”

1.12 Support of RE Magazine, Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages

We urge rural electric systems to adopt the Model Standards for Statewide Publications and the Model Standards for Local Cooperative News Pages to provide effective and efficient vehicles for communicating industry information to their consumer-members.

We call upon NRECA to urge every member to subscribe to its statewide publication and to assist statewide publications in developing and deploying digital and responsive publication tools to better engage cooperative consumer-members. We also urge NRECA to ensure that nonprofit postal rates are kept as low as possible while striving to improve efficiencies in delivery services.

We urge NRECA to encourage every system to subscribe to the Rural Electric (RE) Magazine for all employees. We also urge NRECA to further encourage its members’ employees and leaders to regularly visit Electric.coop and Cooperative.com and to sign up for the weekly Electric Co-op News email updates.

1.13 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which broadens the scope of the resolution to ask NRECA to “pursue opportunities” to reduce electric cooperative costs related to participation in the NRECA defined benefit Retirement Securities Plan. The amendment originated from a different proposed amendment submitted by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association and the 25 members of their Legislative and Regulatory Committee.

1.13 Employee Retirement Benefits

We urge NRECA to support legislation to protect the ability of co-ops to offer the Retirement Security Plan and support policies which would provide opportunities and protect our employees’ ability to save for their retirement through 401(k) plans and other investment vehicles.

We urge NRECA to study alternatives and pursue opportunities to help reduce the cost pressures faced by electric co-ops participating in NRECA’s defined benefit RS Plan.

1.14 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which merges language regarding support for REDL&G from the existing resolution “2.13 Investment to Strengthen Rural America” and amends the title.

1.14 Support for USDA Rural Development Programs for a Strong Rural America

We urge NRECA to support the continuation and funding of Rural Development programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture ~~and work to ensure, including those that provide critical investment capital to strengthen and sustain rural communities and institutions such as REDL&G.~~ We urge that Rural Development be treated as a high priority within USDA.

We support the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and its mission of enabling the building and maintaining of essential electric infrastructure through the Electric Loan Program. We urge NRECA to support adequate RUS electric loan levels and staffing. We also urge NRECA to support engineering and technical standards and encourage staff and the Transmission and Distribution Engineering Committee to explore modernization of RUS construction standards and propose timely updates to RUS.

1.15 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which clarifies the title and adds language from the resolution's former policy background statement to emphasize the importance of rights-of-way management to power delivery.

1.15 Responsible Maintenance of Cooperative Infrastructure Through Use of Chemicals

We urge NRECA to support the careful and knowledgeable use of chemicals in the safe, economical and effective operation and maintenance of electric cooperatives. Electric cooperatives utilize chemicals to economically and effectively maintain rights-of-way, pole treatment, and insect control, etc. Curtailment in the use of these products will result in more expensive and less reliable electric power for consumer-members.

1.16 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which emphasizes that electric cooperatives are “built by and belong to the communities they serve” and includes edits for consistency.

1.16 Electric Industry Restructuring

We urge NRECA to protect the interests of consumer-members~~owners~~ and their cooperatives by opposing electric industry restructuring efforts that negatively impact the cooperatives’ abilities to continue to provide their members with safe, reliable and affordable electric services. Federal and state rules, including rules regarding business models, local control, energy resource ownership, cost allocation, affiliate transaction, and separation of functions, should recognize electric cooperatives’ unique size, ~~member-ownership~~, the fact that cooperatives were built by and belong to the communities they serve, and cooperatives’ not-for-profit characteristics.

1.17 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed amendment which includes language submitted by the Colorado Rural Electric Association and Mountain View Electric Association, Colorado, to establish a goal of relying on scientific evidence rather than other ambiguous measures. The Committee also added language for clarity and to better align the resolution with the title.

1.17 Environmental Externalities

We urge NRECA to oppose the use of ambiguous or arbitrary measures of environmental externalities to justify regulatory burdens, such as the social cost of carbon in the regulatory process or other policy determinations. NRECA should educate the membership on this issue to get the grassroots support we need to achieve the goal of using scientific evidence-based estimates of environmental costs and benefits in the regulatory process.

Consent Agenda to Oppose – Proposed Resolution 2

Any Voting Delegate may remove a resolution from the Consent Agenda to have it considered individually.

The Resolutions Committee forwards the following resolutions with a recommendation against adoption. Therefore, unless removed for individual consideration, by general consent, the following resolutions will not be adopted:

- 2.1 Rural Electric Mascot Willie Wiredhand
- 2.2 Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 2.3 Public Power Support
- 2.4 Assistance to Puerto Rico
- 2.5 Tort Reform
- 2.6 Citizens' Lawsuits
- 2.7 Equal Access to Justice Act
- 2.8 Impact of Regulations on NRECA Members
- 2.9 Memberships' Need for Diversified Services
- 2.10 Support of Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages
- 2.11 Rural Electric Magazine, Electric.coop, and Cooperative.com
- 2.12 Postal Legislation
- 2.13 Investment to Strengthen Rural America
- 2.14 Fuel Mix, Including Renewables
- 2.15 Ensuring Adequate Federal Funds to Combat Wildfires
- 2.16 Public and Member Relations Aspects of Environmental Issues
- 2.17 Telecommunications Services for Rural America
- 2.18 Support of Utilities Technology Council
- 2.19 National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative Legislative Issues
- 2.20 Communications Spectrum
- 2.21 Safeguarding Local Control – FCC and Pole Attachments

1 **2.1 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing
2 resolution. The importance of protecting and promoting the cooperative brand is addressed in the
3 proposed new resolution policy statement “The Cooperative Business Model,” presented as
4 Proposed New Resolution 3.

5
6 **2.1 Rural Electric Mascot Willie Wiredhand**

7 We urge NRECA to continue to allow the use of Willie Wiredhand as a mascot.
8
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11 **2.2 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing
12 resolution. Most of the language is used in the proposed new resolution policy statement “The
13 Cooperative Business Model,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 3.
14

15 **2.2 Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

16 We support the sixth cooperative principle of cooperation among cooperatives and urge
17 NRECA to support policies that promote and protect the cooperative brand and the cooperative
18 business model.

19 We further urge NRECA to work with its member systems to develop educational
20 materials and sponsor education programs that educate our youth, member-owners, directors,
21 employees, community leaders, and political officials regarding the cooperative business model
22 and encourage involvement of all members.
23
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26 **2.3 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing
27 resolution. The language appears in the third paragraph of the proposed new resolution policy
28 statement “The Cooperative Business Model,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 3.
29

30 **2.3 Public Power Support**

31 We urge NRECA to encourage electric cooperatives, public power districts, and other
32 entities that are the beneficiaries of publicly generated power to undertake or continue
33 communications and other programs that are directed to member-owners, the general public, and
34 legislators to obtain a greater understanding and appreciation of the benefits that publicly
35 generated power, public utility districts, nonprofit cooperative and community-owned utilities
36 provide to the nation.
37
38

39 **2.4 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing
40 resolution. The intent of this resolution is now addressed in proposed resolution “1.2 Support for
41 NRECA International:” further, NRECA has been actively supporting a cooperative organization
42 in Puerto Rico that seeks to furnish electricity at retail to consumer-members.
43

44 **2.4 Assistance to Puerto Rico**

45 We urge NRECA to provide assistance and support to communities and organizations in
46 Puerto Rico that are exploring the creation of electric cooperatives.

2.5 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of, and language from, this resolution is addressed in proposed resolution “1.7 Legal and Judicial Recognition of Consumer-Owned and Accountable Businesses.”

2.5 Tort Reform

We urge NRECA to engage with Congress to enact tort reform legislation that would provide balance in our judicial system that has been overburdened with costly lawsuits.

2.6 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of, and language from, this resolution is addressed in proposed new resolution “1.7 Legal and Judicial Recognition of Consumer-Owned and Accountable Businesses.”

2.6 Citizens’ Lawsuits

We urge NRECA to support legislation to modify federal agency procedures that allow for what is commonly called “Sue-and-Settle” citizen lawsuits to be filed and settled without all the parties impacted, the public, states and stakeholders being aware of, or allowed meaningful participation in the proceedings. The goal of legislation would be to allow all stakeholders the opportunity to be informed and heard throughout the process.

2.7 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of, and language from, this resolution is addressed in proposed new resolution “1.7 Legal and Judicial Recognition of Consumer-Owned and Accountable Businesses.”

2.7 Equal Access to Justice Act

We urge NRECA to support legislation to restore transparency to Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) payments through tracking and reporting requirements on all attorney reimbursements and creation of a searchable, online database of all EAJA payments so the information can be easily accessed.

2.8 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in proposed resolution “1.8 Regulatory Reform and Fairness in Application.”

2.8 Impact of Regulations on NRECA Members

We urge NRECA to support regulatory actions that are consistent with the intent of the law, offer net benefits, and are in the best interests of NRECA member systems. We also urge NRECA to support agency compliance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

2.9 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The Committee added the resolution language to the end of proposed resolution “1.9 Developing New Consumer-Centric Business Models.”

2.9 Memberships’ Need for Diversified Services

We urge NRECA to oppose any legislation or regulation that would limit a cooperative’s ability to engage in a specific business enterprise that might add value for the benefit of the member-owners and the local community.

2.10 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The Committee merged language from the resolution into proposed resolution “1.12 Support of RE Magazine, Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages.”

2.10 Support of Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages

We urge rural electric systems to adopt the Model Standards for Statewide Publications and the Model Standards for Local Cooperative News Pages to provide effective and efficient publication vehicles for communicating important industry information to their member-owners. We call upon NRECA to:

- Work vigorously to ensure that statewide consumer publications continue to qualify for reasonable, low postage rates,
- Urge every member system to subscribe to its statewide consumer publication,
- Encourage member systems to endorse NRECA’s emphasis on statewide publications, and
- Assist statewide consumer publications in researching, developing, and deploying digital and responsive publication tools to better engage cooperative member-owners.

2.11 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The Committee merged language from the resolution into proposed resolution “1.12 Support of RE Magazine, Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages.”

2.11 Rural Electric Magazine, Electric.coop, and Cooperative.com

We urge NRECA to encourage every system to subscribe to the Rural Electric (RE) Magazine for all employees. We also urge NRECA to further encourage member systems’ employees and leaders to regularly visit Electric.coop and Cooperative.com, both free online resources, as well as sign up for the weekly Electric Co-op News email updates.

2.12 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The Committee merged language from the resolution into proposed resolution “1.12 Support of RE Magazine, Statewide Publications and Local Cooperative Pages.”

2.12 Postal Legislation

We urge NRECA to seek legislation to ensure that nonprofit postal rates are kept as low as possible while striving to improve efficiencies in delivery services. We support continuing efforts before Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission to protect the interests of nonprofit mailers and rural citizens.

2.13 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of, and some language from, the resolution is merged into proposed resolution “1.14 Support for USDA Rural Development Programs for a Strong Rural America.”

2.13 Investment to Strengthen Rural America

We urge NRECA to support legislative initiatives to promote adequate investment capital in programs, such as, but not limited to REDL&G, and institutions serving agriculture and rural America.

2.14 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in proposed new resolution policy statement “Power Supply,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 10, and in existing resolution “Renewable and Environmentally Favorable Energy.”

2.14 Fuel Mix, Including Renewables

We urge NRECA to support legislation and administrative policy that promotes a diverse fuel mix, including renewables, where cost-effective and reliable.

2.15 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of, and some language from, the resolution is merged into Proposed New Resolution 13 “Seeking Cooperation of Congress and Federal Agencies to Help Electric Co-ops Reduce the Risk of Wildfires.”

2.15 Ensuring Adequate Federal Funds to Combat Wildfires

We urge NRECA to support enactment of legislation, and/or regulatory action, to establish wildfire funding mechanisms to ensure adequate and equitable funding to prevent and fight major wildfires.

2.16 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in proposed amendment “1.10 Cooperative Communications Programs.”

183 **2.16 Public and Member Relations Aspects of Environmental Issues**

184 We urge NRECA to assist rural electric entities to take the following steps when faced
185 with a controversial environmental issue to assure the highest level of public and member
186 confidence, thus building support among members:

- 187 • Establish clear, forthright and positive communications in advance of public decisions
- 188 made by the cooperative on the issue(s);
- 189 • Make sure that all statements are concrete, and objectively factual; and,
- 190 • Design comprehensive communications plans with adequate staffing and resources and
- 191 use custom-designed messages with different audiences both among members and the
- 192 public, and listen to these audiences and make appropriate responses to their concerns
- 193 and comments.

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197 **2.17 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing
198 resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in the proposed new resolution statement
199 “Telecommunications and Technology Utilization,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 16.
200

201 **2.17 Telecommunications Services for Rural America**

202 We urge NRECA, NRTC, and member systems to consider partnerships with
203 telecommunications providers and other organizations and to provide assistance and information
204 to member cooperatives in obtaining and promoting available broadband and cell funding where
205 these services are lacking. Partnerships such as these can benefit electric cooperatives’ internal
206 operations and their member-owners.

207 We encourage NRECA, NRTC, and their rural partners to identify opportunities, and
208 work towards securing benefits for electric cooperatives from federal, state and other funding
209 sources whether in regulatory proceedings or emerging legislation. We support federal
210 legislation that provides financing incentives for the installation of the infrastructure necessary to
211 support these technologies.

212 We urge NRECA, through its education and training programs, to provide courses,
213 programs and materials that offer a thorough education into the kinds of technologies available,
214 how they can be applied to cooperative business practices, how these technologies can support
215 community economic sustainability and what entities might be appropriate partners in providing
216 those services.
217
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220 **2.18 Explanation:** The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing
221 resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in the proposed new resolution statement
222 “Telecommunications and Technology Utilization,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 16.
223

224 **2.18 Support of Utilities Technology Council**

225 We urge NRECA to work in partnership with the Utilities Technology Council (UTC) in
226 appropriately addressing regulatory, legislative and technical issues to ensure that cooperatives’
227 telecommunications access and needs are facilitated and protected. We urge NRECA to endorse

and encourage membership, support, and participation in UTC regional and national programs and activities by electric cooperatives.

2.19 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in the proposed new resolution statement “Telecommunications and Technology Utilization,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 16.

2.19 National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative Legislative Issues

We urge NRECA to continue promoting and supporting NRTC with the goal of improving advanced telecommunications services and access for NRECA members.

2.20 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in the proposed new resolution statement “Telecommunications and Technology Utilization,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 16.

2.20 Communications Spectrum

Electric cooperatives believe that access to sufficient and affordable communication spectrum is critical to cooperatives’ business operations. Processes for allocating communication spectrum must reflect a level playing field, and we must protect communications, including GPS systems, from harmful interference. We urge NRECA to oppose any proposals that would authorize the FCC to require “bidding” for the communication spectrum necessary for any utility operations.

2.21 Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends against the adoption of this existing resolution. The intent of this resolution is addressed in the proposed new resolution statement “Telecommunications and Technology Utilization,” presented as Proposed New Resolution 16.

2.21 Safeguarding Local Control – FCC and Pole Attachments

We urge NRECA to oppose any legislation or vesting of regulatory authority over pole attachments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

We urge NRECA to seek policies that protect electric cooperatives from FCC regulation by engaging – with NRECA resources and with like-minded coalition partners – when legislative and regulatory actions arise.

Individual Proposed Resolutions – Forwarded by the National Resolutions Committee with Recommendations for Adoption

Proposed New Resolution 3

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement. The Committee incorporated the intent of existing resolutions “2.1 Rural Electric Mascot Willie Wiredhand,” “2.2 Cooperation Among Cooperatives,” and “2.3 Public Power Support” to reflect the positions of NRECA’s membership with respect to the unique business model that NRECA members operate under. If adopted, this will appear as the first category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

The Cooperative Business Model

We support protecting and promoting the cooperative business model and cooperative brand and emphasizing its unique strengths in educating our youth, consumer-members, directors, employees, community leaders, and political officials. We support reviving, sustaining, and further developing rural America and we encourage the involvement and support of the cooperative membership. Rural America is advanced by a strong network of cooperatives. Therefore, we support the right of all individuals to form and join cooperative organizations, including electric cooperatives, credit unions, agriculture cooperatives, and other entities operating under traditional cooperative principles.

We support the principle of cooperation among cooperatives and support NRECA’s work with its members to develop programs to educate employees, directors and consumer-members, and opinion leaders about the cooperative business model.

We support the collaboration of electric cooperatives, public power districts, and other entities that benefit from publicly generated power on communications and other programs that build a greater understanding and appreciation of the benefits that publicly generated power, public utility districts, nonprofit cooperative, and community-owned utilities provide to the nation.

Proposed New Resolution 4

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership's intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. If adopted, this will appear as the second category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Cooperative Governance and Leadership

We support promoting appropriate governance practices and encourage electric cooperative boards and management to continue their strong record of implementing policies and practices that reflect the highest degree of transparency, ethics, accountability, diversity, equity, and inclusion to communicate those practices to their membership and others, and to support professional development and relationship building among cooperative leaders. The democratic nature of cooperative governance ensures that the cooperative board and management is responsive to the local community rather than the profit-maximizing interests of distant shareholders, thereby making governmental regulation duplicative and in many cases unnecessary. We seek to ensure the continued recognition of this distinction by state and federal policymakers, judiciary, and regulatory bodies through education and coordinated advocacy efforts.

We support NRECA and allied interest groups collaborating to further cooperative interests in local policies, state, and national legislation, and to continue promoting electric cooperative political engagement and grassroots activities to enable members to speak to policymakers with a unified voice.

Proposed New Resolution 5

Submitted by Snapping Shoals EMC, Georgia; Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Michigan; Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Virginia; and Roanoke Electric Cooperative, North Carolina, with amendments by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for this proposed new resolution as amended by the Committee during its June 26, 2020 meeting, with input from the submitting members. The Committee recognizes this is an important issue nationwide, including for electric cooperatives and their consumer-members. Following discussion with the submitting members, the Committee added language addressing the evolving and diversifying needs of electric cooperative's unique communities and urging NRECA to research successful diversity, equity and inclusion business practices and base a framework or guide on that research.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Electric cooperatives have symbolized the precepts of inclusion and equal representation since their founding and should lead the way as the needs of their unique communities and membership evolve and diversify. We urge NRECA to encourage the ideals of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and demonstrate to its members the value and business advantages of understanding and incorporating DEI into their business practices to achieve greater consumer-member loyalty and increased consumer-member satisfaction.

We further urge NRECA to:

- Research successful business practices and highlight positive results realized by electric cooperatives and others that have embraced DEI in their business approaches; and
- Based on successful DEI business practices employed by cooperatives and other organizations, provide a basic framework or guide for electric cooperatives interested in incorporating DEI business practices in their business structure and strategies.

Proposed New Resolution 6

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership's intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. If adopted, this will appear as the third category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Consumer-Member Relationship

Electric cooperatives are built by, and belong to, the communities they serve. Every cooperative is shaped over time by the unique community it serves, including the diversity of that community and its specific needs. A crucial element of the electric cooperative model depends on an engaged relationship with consumer-members. We support anticipating and meeting the needs of electric cooperative consumer-members as the energy industry continues to develop and evolve. We promote the concept of a consumer-centric utility. This may take the form of additional utility products or consumer services such as broadband, beneficial electrification, community economic development, technology innovation, strong governance and strategic execution, or mutual support for other shared goals, often tailored to different segments of the membership. To advance the cooperative principle of concern for community, we support and partner with the cooperative network to deliver programs and services that focus on consumer-member needs and the sustainable development of electric cooperative communities.

By working cooperatively to meet NRECA member needs, America's Electric Cooperatives support consumers who join together to create, own, and operate nonprofit utilities. Furthermore, NRECA enables collaboration to occur among its membership in the interest of serving these communities of energy consumers. The power of NRECA and America's Electric Cooperatives resides in the cooperative model and its principles and the engaged members who devote their time, effort, and talent to these endeavors.

Proposed New Resolution 7

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership's intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. If adopted, this will appear as the fourth category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Workforce Safety, Security, and Operations Management

We support efforts to continue to strengthen NRECA and the cooperative network resources that assist electric cooperatives with the efficient management of daily operations. This is accomplished by ensuring all NRECA members can attract and retain a qualified workforce by offering affordable, comprehensive and flexible health care and retirement options, participating in employee professional growth opportunities, supporting a culture of safety and security (physical and cyber) that focuses on continuous improvement, and having the tools, technology and business practices to advance membership quality of life, economic prosperity and environmental stewardship. We also support the safeguarding of electric cooperative service territories, communications systems integrity and disaster recovery.

Proposed New Resolution 8

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution as presented. During their January meetings in recent years, the member standing committees discussed proposing a stand-alone resolution addressing cyber and physical security issues. The Committee recognizes several existing resolutions include references to these issues but agrees that a stand-alone resolution is warranted due to the importance of cyber and physical security.

Security Issues

Cyber and physical security of electric cooperative infrastructure is critically important to protecting the grid and ensuring an affordable, reliable, and secure supply of electricity. We urge NRECA to continue supporting electric cooperative cyber and physical security by providing educational opportunities, resources and tools to advance security improvements, and encouraging NRECA members to participate in NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program. We further urge NRECA to continue educating policymakers regarding electric sector security and advocating for appropriate laws, regulations, policies, and adequate funding to support cyber and physical security investments.

Proposed New Resolution 9

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership's intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. If adopted, this will appear as the fifth category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Investment and Financial Matters

We support cooperative access to adequate sources of financing for electric, broadband, and other relevant infrastructure investments. Utility services are capital intensive industries that are essential to the long-term viability of rural America. The low density of rural America requires these investments to be spread over a smaller consumer base than is the case in urban America. We support equitable treatment for cooperatives with other energy providers when tax-exempt financing, interest-free loans, or energy incentives exist, or are considered by Congress. Additionally, we seek to ensure that nonprofit electric cooperatives are treated equitably under the tax law.

Proposed New Resolution 10

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee with input from Golden State Power Cooperative, California

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution statement to summarize the membership’s intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. The Committee incorporated language from Golden State Power Cooperative for clarity. If adopted, this will appear as the sixth category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Power Supply

We support outcomes that ensure that each electric cooperative can access, develop, construct, produce, and/or purchase a mix of power supply resources that they conclude best enables them to provide their consumer-members with safe, secure, reliable, and affordable electric service. Resource portfolios differ substantially across the country, between cooperatives, and among neighboring utilities. Maintaining resource diversity and flexibility is critical.

Providing reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity remains the shared commitment of all NRECA members. Cooperatives are committed to generating power as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible using an “all-of-the-above” approach.

Diversity of electric generation is essential to meeting consumer-members’ expectations. Consistent with that approach, electric cooperatives explore all ideas that promote these core principles as they work to meet the evolving energy needs of their communities. Every electric cooperative is unique – from the local community it’s owned by and serves to how it decides to power those homes, businesses, and farms and the innovative work it is undertaking. A technology, program, or policy that works for one cooperative might not work for another.

Every cooperative’s power supply resource mix will vary greatly depending on existing and available resources and assets, the impact on rates for consumer-members, reliability implications, geographic location, and other regional and local circumstances. Any policy proposals regarding electric generation technology must provide long-term certainty and flexibility that maintains energy diversity for electric cooperatives, protects reliability and security of the electric grid, and minimizes undue economic impact for consumer-members. Electric cooperative consumer-members should not be burdened with stranded assets that were developed based on federal government policy directives.

Proposed New Resolution 11

Submitted by the Montana Electric Cooperative Association, Montana, supported by the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Oregon, and the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Washington

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution as presented. The Committee recognizes this resolution addresses an important current issue affecting member systems in the Pacific Northwest. While there are existing resolutions addressing similar issues, the Committee feels a stand-alone resolution is warranted to provide NRECA guidance in reaching a specific legislative solution.

Supporting a Legislative Solution to Protect the Multipurpose Benefits of the Dams that Make Up the Federal Columbia River Power System

We urge NRECA to work with its members to support a legislative solution protecting the multipurpose benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System, most importantly, the system's reliable, economical and carbon-free power supply.

Proposed New Resolution 12

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership's intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. If adopted, this will appear as the seventh category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Power Delivery

We support policies to ensure that cooperatives can deliver power to their consumer-members safely, securely, reliably, and affordably. This includes the delivery of a diverse mix of electric generation that varies across regions of the country and even by individual cooperatives in a manner that meets consumer-members' expectations. Consistent with that approach, electric cooperatives explore all ideas that promote these core principles as we work to meet the evolving energy needs of our communities. Every electric cooperative is unique, from the local community it's owned by and serves, to how it decides to power those homes, businesses, and farms, to the innovative work it is undertaking. A cooperative's resource mix is also guided by its locally available natural resources, such as availability of fossil fuels, hydropower, wind and solar resources, and their relative cost effectiveness in the region. A technology, program, or policy that works for one cooperative might not work for another.

Cooperatives' role in power delivery continues to evolve given changes in technology, consumer-member expectations and regulatory developments. The cost of siting, permitting, and maintaining transmission lines is a critical element of ensuring affordable power delivery. This includes the buildout of necessary infrastructure to support new generation capacity and new technologies such as renewable resources and energy storage. Cooperatives also need to maintain their decision-making autonomy when determining whether to participate in Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO). For those that do join, they should be treated consistent with other utilities that are members of the same RTO. Cooperatives recognize that continued integration of variable forms of generation and the two-way flow of electrons, data and finances requires a strong system operator. Cooperatives are committed to the security and reliability of the grid, which are vital to delivering power to their consumer-members.

Proposed New Resolution 13

Submitted by the Colorado Rural Electric Association with amendments by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution as amended by the Committee and the submitting member during the June 26, 2020 meeting. The Committee merged language from existing resolution “2.15 Ensuring Adequate Federal Funds to Combat Wildfires” into this proposal to streamline resolutions on similar subjects.

Seeking Cooperation of Congress and Federal Agencies to Help Electric Co-ops Reduce the Risk of Wildfires

We urge NRECA to work with Congress, the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and all other appropriate federal agencies to develop and implement consistent federal agency policies that enable electric co-ops to access utility rights-of-way to clear vegetation and mitigate the risk of wildfires along with establishing wildfire funding mechanisms to ensure adequate and equitable funding to prevent and fight major wildfires. We urge NRECA to help its members work with local representatives of federal landowners to help develop wildfire mitigation strategies. We further urge NRECA to assist co-ops in working with federal agencies to develop wildfire response plans that consider the impacts of wildfires on rural communities and electric co-op infrastructure.

Proposed New Resolution 14

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership's intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. If adopted, this will appear as the eighth category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Energy Markets and Industry Structure

We support voluntary participation in competitive wholesale markets, open transmission access, transparency, construction of needed new transmission infrastructure, and elimination of undue market power to ensure that all electric cooperatives can safely, reliably, securely and affordably meet their consumer-members' long-term power needs. As new energy technologies are changing market performance and conduct, cooperatives should retain flexibility to best address their individual needs. Wholesale market designs should compensate cooperatives for the capacity, dispatchability, and flexibility of their resources when participating in these markets. Markets should encourage investment in resources that enable system operators to effectively manage the system without imposing undue costs on cooperatives and their consumer-members.

Proposed New Resolution 15

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership's intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. If adopted, this will appear as the ninth category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Environmental

Environmental laws affect nearly every aspect of operating an electric cooperative, from trimming trees near power lines to fueling power plants. Federal policies should recognize the crucial role that cooperatives play in bringing clean, reliable, affordable power to rural businesses and households.

We support necessary environmental regulations that provide for common sense solutions to environmental impacts and that balance the cost of compliance with the environmental benefits. Cooperatives are committed to meeting environmental requirements, but policies that needlessly increase costs have a dramatic impact on those who can least afford it. Higher power costs also hurt businesses, potentially causing job losses and limiting economic development opportunities.

We believe that environmental, wildlife and land-management policies should encourage flexible, local approaches where possible rather than imposing costly one-size-fits-all rules that discourage innovation. We support policies that rely more on providing incentives and encouraging voluntary conservation efforts.

We support policies that will ensure that any government action to address environmental concerns protects the interests of, and minimizes the economic impacts to, electric cooperatives and our consumer-members, and allows electric cooperatives to continue to provide affordable, reliable, secure and safe electric power in an environmentally responsible manner.

Proposed New Resolution 16

Submitted by the National Resolutions Committee

Explanation: The Resolutions Committee recommends for the adoption of this proposed new resolution policy statement to summarize the membership’s intent and goals related to this category of resolutions. The Committee incorporated the intent of existing resolutions “2.17 Telecommunications Services for Rural America,” “2.18 Support of Utilities Technology Council,” “2.19 National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative Legislative Issues,” “2.20 Communications Spectrum,” and “2.21 Safeguarding Local Control – FCC and Pole Attachments.” If adopted, this will appear as the tenth category in the 2021 member resolutions booklet.

Telecommunications and Technology Utilization

In our digital economy, high-speed communications systems have become a part of every-day life. Electric cooperatives increasingly rely on robust telecommunications networks, systems and various technologies to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric service and other programs and services for their consumer-members. In addition, millions of rural Americans are locked out of the modern economy simply because broadband internet service is not available. Access to sufficient, affordable, and reliable telecommunications service is not only critical to cooperatives’ business operations but increasingly a necessity for communities, education, health care, and commerce. Increasingly, electric cooperatives are working to bridge this gap in access for the communities they serve. We support NRECA’s work with NRTC, the Utilities Technology Council, and other like-minded organizations to support the ability of cooperatives and the communities they serve to have affordable and reliable access to broadband, cellular service, and related technology by ensuring:

- Financing and incentives comparable to those provided to for-profit entities are available to fund the build out and maintenance of advanced telecommunications systems and related technology;
- Access to sufficient radio spectrum without undue interference;
- The promotion of interoperability and security of telecommunications and information technology systems;
- The ability of electric cooperatives directly or indirectly to provide broadband and cellular service to consumers; and
- Safeguarding the ability of NRECA members to maintain local control over any attachments by other service providers to their poles or other infrastructure.