

Review NRECA Resolution Process

2018-04-16 Board Meeting

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NRECA 2018 Legislative Conference INVEST IN RURAL AMERICA!

Support Robust Rural Development Programs in 2018 Farm Bill

The Farm Bill must include a robust rural development title with programs to improve the quality of life in rural America. It must facilitate the innovative work electric co-ops do to generate and distribute electricity, help consumers manage their energy use, deploy smart grid tools, and manage the electric grid more securely and efficiently. The Farm Bill must also support the role of many electric cooperatives as important economic development organizations in their communities.

Congress should enhance key Rural Development Programs in the Farm Bill, including:

- ✓ RUS Electric Loan Program (including the Guaranteed Underwriter Program)
- ✓ Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program
- ✓ Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP)

Protect the Power Marketing Administrations and TVA

The Administration's FY2019 budget proposed to sell the transmission assets of the PMAs and TVA, as well as change the rate structure from a cost-based system to a "market-based" system. Selling the transmission assets to send more money to Washington has been a bad idea for decades, and asking consumers to pay more for power than is necessary to cover the costs of the PMAs to generate that power only exacerbates that problem.

Congress should reject proposals to sell the transmission systems of the PMAs or TVA. Congress should reject plans to raise electric rates by switching from "cost-based" to "market-based" rates.

Invest in Rural Broadband in 2018 Farm Bill and FY2019 Appropriations

Bringing broadband to rural America will require a combination of loans and grants to address high cost and low population density barriers. The USDA Rural

Utilities Service should provide grants in combination with loans from RUS or cooperative lenders to overcome those high-cost barriers. Additionally, rural America should expect comparable broadband speeds as urban citizens, and not subject to "second-class service."

In the FY2018 Omnibus Spending Bill, Congress provided \$600 million for a new grant-loan pilot program through the broadband loan program. That was a good down payment, but much more will be needed and grants should be available to be paired with any loan from RUS or a cooperative lender. Significant additional funding is needed in FY19.

Congress should continue to prioritize bridging the digital divide by:

- ✓ Establishing a permanent loan-grant program at USDA's Rural Utilities Service
- ✓ Dedicating significant funding to RUS for loans and grants in FY2019

Stop PBGC From Overcharging Electric Co-op Pension Plans

Congress has recognized that pension plans like NRECA's RS Plan pose virtually no risk of default. Yet, co-ops in the RS Plan continue to pay insurance premiums to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) as if we were such a risk. Legislation (S.2526/H.R.5282) sponsored by Sens. Hatch (R-UT) and Wyden (D-OR) and Reps. Kelly (R-PA) and Kind (D-WI) would adjust PBGC premiums to be in line with risk.

Congress should pass S. 2526 / H.R. 5282, and Members of Congress should co-sponsor this legislation.

Invite Your Member of Congress to Visit Your Co-op

Invite your Member of Congress to visit your co-op to meet employees, attend an annual meeting, or tour a facility. Ask for the name of the scheduler or other staff member with whom you should follow-up.

Notes: _____



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I WANT TO SUBMIT A MEMBER RESOLUTION

