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COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES  
BUILD A BETTER WORLD

Learn how at  
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October is Co-op Month!

## Messages carried to the Nation's Capitol by Iowa Delegation

**T**hirty representatives from Iowa rural electric cooperatives have returned from Washington, D.C., after discussing the following issues regarding energy, economic development and storm recovery issues with Iowa's congressional delegation.

- 1.** A sound U.S. energy policy is critical to electric cooperatives as we make plans for providing power to our member consumers now and into the future. The impact of current energy policy and the speed of transition from coal-based generation to other generation sources will have a significant impact on our member-consumers' power bills. Electric cooperatives support the creation of a balanced energy policy that protects both the economy and environment.
- 2.** Each year since Fiscal Year 2008, Congress has approved a \$6.5 billion

loan level for the RUS Electric Loan program. This loan level has not cost the federal government a single cent over that time. Electric cooperatives and the RUS are careful and diligent when it comes to loan management, resulting in an excellent record of loan repayment that will contribute more than \$100 million to the U.S. Treasury for deficit reduction in Fiscal Year 2012. All electric utilities receive subsidies in one form or the other and the rural electric cooperatives receive the least amount of federal subsidy per consumer. We asked our legislators to preserve funding we do receive through these essential programs: RUS, Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, Power Marketing Administrations and the Federal Energy Management Agency.

- 3.** Electric cooperatives rely significantly on FEMA funds to promptly restore power after severe natural disasters, such as tornadoes, ice storms and floods, and for hazard mitigation projects. Without FEMA assistance, many electric cooperative member-consumers living in these affected areas would face additional burdens of longer wait times for service restoration and the potential for higher rates. Due to the high frequency of recent

disasters, FEMA funds are at risk of being depleted. We need to ensure that Iowans impacted by severe storms are not forgotten, and FEMA funding is not redirected to more recent disasters.

**Look for more information next month regarding legislative news affecting your electric cooperative. It is an ongoing challenge until the opening session in January 2012.**

## Call to Grassroots

**KEEP RURAL ELECTRICITY  
AFFORDABLE**

**Y**our cooperative has been very active in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., making sure our legislators know what effects laws could have on utility costs for our members.

In the past year, various out of state environmental groups have injected misleading TV, newspaper and automated telephone call advertisements into essential discussions on needed baseload generation in Iowa. We believe these out-of-state special interest groups have no legitimate stake in Iowa's energy future and their intentions are remarkably disingenuous and intentionally misleading on proposed legislation.

*More on page 3...*



Hawkeye's CEO Brian Krambeer and employee Josh Lenz communicate with Representative Tom Latham in Washington, D.C. during the Fall Fly-In Legislative Conference.

## **Grassroots...** *(from cover)*

Increased baseload energy, as part of an overall energy package that includes renewable resources, will mean reliable, affordable, safe electricity delivered in an environmentally responsible manner for the future for electric cooperative members, agribusiness and other partners in business in rural Iowa.

### **BE INFORMED:**

Sign up today to be included in email communications from Hawkeye REC so you are armed with the facts that matter to Iowans. Sign up via email today to [mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com](mailto:mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com) and provide your email address. If you change your mind, rest assured, you can unsubscribe simply by notifying Hawkeye REC.

### **NEW: You can also follow us on TWITTER**

Go to [www.twitter.com/HawkeyeREC](http://www.twitter.com/HawkeyeREC) and start following your electric cooperative today. We urge our members to stay connected with issues affecting the co-op, but we'll also provide safety updates, event announcements, outage information, and tips to help you save energy and money.

Hawkeye strives to provide the best communication tools available to our members and now with social networking, you can get the latest information in real time.



**Thanks for making a difference in Iowa's energy future!**