

ACRE Cookout
March 20, 2019

For those of you that plan to have office meetings at the Capitol next week, **we would greatly appreciate it if you do not leave any position papers behind.** Please feel free to leave behind materials relating to your co-op and invitations to the cookout.

If Statewide needs to follow-up with any Legislators please let Allison Carter know, 850-567-0059.

- **Co-op 101**
 - With the rapid turnover in the legislature, it is always good to ask legislators and staff if they know about electric co-ops. Many times, this will lead to an opportunity to explain the electric co-op model, emphasizing our not-for-profit status, our service in underserved areas, democratically elected Boards and strong ties to the community.
- **Medically Essential Electric Utility Service (SB 1370-Farmer/HB 651-D. Smith)**
 - We are still working with the bill sponsors to address the co-ops' concerns on this bill. In its current form, we **OPPOSE** the legislation.
 - This would expand PSC jurisdiction over the coops by creating notification and certification requirements for all electric services providers to be submitted to the PSC.
 - The House sponsor has indicated he did not intend to expand the PSC's jurisdiction over co-ops and is working with us to address the concerns.
 - Electric cooperatives have medically essential service plans in place that substantially comply with current statute.
- **Theft Offenses (SB 7072- Bradley/ HB 589- Donalds)**
 - The theft of utility services is punishable as provided in Section 812.014, F.S. Currently, a person could be convicted of grand theft and a felony of the third degree if the property stolen is valued at a minimum of \$300.
 - The Senate bill would raise the lowest threshold amount for this conviction from \$300 to either \$750 or possibly higher. This would reduce the number of thefts of utility services that would be eligible for conviction of a felony.
 - The current House bill creates an exemption that will allow the theft of utility services to be considered a felony regardless of the amount stolen. We **SUPPORT the House Bill (HB589).**
 - We are working with the sponsors of the Senate bill to add the House language.