Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2019

Dear Colleague,

Please sign our letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies in support of funding the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loans program for FY2020 at the same level as last year. **Deadline to sign the letter is Thursday, March 28**th.

Electric cooperatives use the RUS Electric Loans program to finance electricity distribution, transmission, and generation to provide affordable and reliable electric service to approximately 42 million people every day. Electric cooperatives have an exceptional track record of paying back these loans with interest which also contributes to lowering the federal deficit.

The letter also asks for flexibility in the types of projects available for borrowing so electric cooperatives can finance distribution and transmission projects, environmental upgrades, or the construction of new generation sources.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the distribution, generation, transmission, and service members they represent support this letter.

If you would like to sign the letter, please contact Zach Martin (<u>Zach.Martin@mail.house.gov</u>) in Congressman Collin C. Peterson's office or Chase Sauvage (<u>Chase.Sauvage@mail.house.gov</u>) in Congressman Michael Conaway's office.

Sincerely,

Collin C. Peterson (D-MN)

Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway (R-TX)

Member of Congress