

ACRE Cookout
January 21, 2020

For those of you that plan to have office meetings at the Capitol next week, **please do not leave this, or any, position papers with the legislator's office.** We encourage you to give your legislator(s) materials relating to your co-op and invitations to the cookout.

Currently, we do not see a reason to advocate for or against any legislation. This is partly due to it being early in session and partly because we do not want to attract attention to bills that otherwise might not be discussed. However, we are providing some talking points on a few bills just in case questions arise. Further, climate change is again on the forefront, which is why we included talking points on the subject.

If you get a question regarding a bill not listed here or 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 ____/HB 773-Maggard)**
 - 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 co-ops by creating notification and certification requirements for all electric services providers to be submitted to the PSC.
 - Electric Cooperatives have medically essential service plans in place that substantially comply with current statute.
- **Renewable Energy (SB 446 – Brandes/ HB ____)**
 - We look forward to working with the sponsor to address the co-ops' concerns on this bill. In its current form, we **OPPOSE** the legislation.
 - This legislation allows third party retail sales of renewable electricity sales.
 - The Electric Cooperatives have great concerns. One concern is the substantial change this legislation brings to the current regulatory compact.
 - Addressing how to accommodate our concerns must be resolved before allowing third party retail sales by renewable generators.
 - This type of legislation must be properly vetted to determine the impact this policy will have on our consumer-members.
- **Climate Change**
 - Florida's electric cooperatives are not-for-profit electric utilities and have one central mission – providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to our consumer-members. To accomplish our mission electric cooperatives, use diverse mixes of energy generation, and continue to invest in research and development so that we can do what is best for our consumer-members and stay up to date on solar and other power options...
 - Several bills are filed that the co-ops continue to monitor and evaluate to determine the impact to our members and our mission, including:
 - **Energy 2040 Task Force (SB 144 – Brandes/HB ____)**
 - Creates a task force within the PSC to project Florida's electric energy needs over the next 20 years and determine how best to meet those needs in an efficient, affordable and reliable manner while **increasing competition and consumer choice and ensuring adequate electric reserves.**
 - **State Renewable Energy Goals (SB 256 – J. Rodriguez/ HB 97 – Eskamani)**
 - This legislation directs the Office of Energy, within DACS, to develop a plan to have 100% of the state's energy generated from renewable resources by 2050.