

ACRE Cookout/January 26, 2022

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 about your co-op and cookout invitations.

Currently, we do not see a reason to advocate for or against any bill aggressively. This year there are a lot of bills touching energy policy. FECA has been asked about our position on several bills by Legislators and staff. We are providing information on the legislation we are asked about most often. **If you get a question regarding a bill not listed here or if Statewide needs to follow up with any Legislators, please call Allison Carter at 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. This often leads to an opportunity to explain the electric co-op model, our not-for-profit status, democratically elected Boards, and strong ties to the community.

Net-Metering

SB 1024 / HB 741 – Sen. Bradley / Rep. McClure

- This legislation **DOES NOT include or impact electric co-ops' net-metering programs.**
- **Legislators are asking about this bill and how electric co-ops handle net-metering.**
 - Under current law, co-ops must offer a net-metering program for customer-owned renewable generation and annually file a report with the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) detailing customer participation in the program.
 - Each co-op net-metering program is reviewed approved by the co-op's board of directors.
- This legislation would require the FPSC to propose and adopt a revised net metering rule for investor-owned utilities (IOU), which would:
 - Ensure IOU customers owning or leasing renewable generation pay full cost of electric service and not be subsidized by the general body of ratepayers. New metering must ensure all energy delivered by the IOU is purchased at applicable retail rate and credited to the customer at full-avoided costs for any excess generation. Net metering may include fixed charges to help ensure that the IOU recovers fixed costs for servicing customers engaging in net metering and safeguard the general body of ratepayers from higher costs for electric service resulting from net-metering.
- We are currently **NEUTRAL** on the bill.

Broadband Infrastructure / Pole Replacement Fund

SB 1800/HB 1543- Sen. Boyd / Rep. Tomkow

- This bill allows broadband providers to get reimbursed for costs (up to \$5,000) caused when co-ops and other pole owners replace poles in an unserved area to accommodate a broadband attachment. The program would be funded from Federal dollars specified for broadband infrastructure in the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.
 - We **SUPPORT** this legislation because it helps bring broadband services to many of our areas while NOT adding financial burdens to not-for-profit electric cooperatives and their member-consumers.

Electric Vehicle Transportation Electrification Plan

SB 920 / HB 737 – Sen. Perry / Rep. Borrero

- This bill ONLY applies to IOUs and **DOES NOT include electric co-ops.** It would prohibit IOUs' ability to rate-base any investment in the ownership and operation of an EV charging station.
- This legislation would require the FPSC to adopt rules to facilitate EV charger infrastructure deployment considered in a "competitively neutral" manner.
- There are some concerns about the legislation, and we continue to monitor this bill. We are currently **NEUTRAL** on the bill.