ISSUE 1

Save Co-op Water Heater Programs

Co-ops save their consumers money and reduce energy use during peak periods, using water heaters in “demand-response” programs. They help integrate renewable resources into the grid. Pending Department of Energy rules threaten our success by prohibiting manufacture of water heaters we use. Bipartisan, non-controversial legislation would avoid this, and time is running out. On April 16, manufacturers will no longer be able to produce these water heaters. The Senate just passed S. 535 (Portman-Shaheen); the House passed identical water heater language last year 375-36. To save our programs, co-ops need the House to take up and pass S. 535 immediately after recess.

- Representative, please urge House Leadership to put S. 535 on the suspension calendar ASAP.

ISSUE 2

Common Sense Coal Ash Legislation

In December 2014, EPA issued a final coal ash rule, which provided for nonhazardous regulation of coal ash. However, EPA has made it clear it will consider reversing course in the future. Legislation is needed to make nonhazardous regulation permanent to provide certainty to my electric cooperative while promoting the recycling of coal ash for use in construction materials and other beneficial uses. This is why we support the “Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015,” a bill that properly balances a healthy environment and electric cooperatives’ mission to provide affordable, reliable electricity.

-Representative, please contact Rep. McKinley’s office to become an original co-sponsor of the Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulations Act of 2015.

ISSUE 3

Give Courts Time to Rule on EPA Power Plant Rules

Electric co-ops oppose EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) because the proposal violates states' authority while failing to consider the impacts on real people. Soon, states will have to comply - unless Congress or the courts step in. A recent discussion draft released by Ch. Whitfield would provide welcome relief to co-op members by hitting the pause button on state compliance until the CPP's legal issues are addressed by the courts. As co-ops continue calling for its withdrawal, and identifying ways to reduce its negative impacts, we support efforts to give the states and the courts time to fully examine this complex proposal.

- Please ask your Representative to support Rep. Whitfield's draft Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015.

ISSUE 4

Stop "Waters of the United States"

America’s Electric Cooperatives have significant concerns with the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule proposed by EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under the proposed rule, co-op rights of way may be classified as WOTUS, even if they are simple ditches alongside roads that receive run-off and infrequently hold water. Electric co-op members value a healthy environment. Affordable and reliable electricity is also critical to our members. As electric co-ops work to harmonize these interests on behalf of our members, we cannot afford the delays and additional red tape WOTUS would create.

- Senator and Representative – please oppose WOTUS.