



**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Jeffrey Connor

February 1, 2016

RE: NRECA Support for the Electrify Africa Act of 2015

Dear Representative:

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) supports passage of S. 2152, the Electrify Africa Act of 2015. We support the bill and are asking you to support this bold policy vision for U.S. engagement in the energy sector in Africa when it comes to the House floor. We stand ready to partner with Congress to pass this legislation and bring access to electricity to rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

When electric cooperatives began to electrify rural America, only ten percent of rural farms in America had electricity. In 1962, NRECA expanded our work into other countries through our international program. Over the last 50 years, we have worked to bring electricity to more than 110 million people in more than 43 countries.

S. 2152 provides a coordinated strategy to prioritize current investments to create access to electricity for rural communities around the world. NRECA partners with these agencies to achieve broader energy access in the countries we work. As the global rural electrification experts, NRECA staff members have worked closely with the House Foreign Relations Committee and Rep. Royce and Rep. Engle to ensure that this bill creates the most flexible and fuel neutral strategy that will reduce regulatory burdens in countries and create sustainable and cost effective access to electricity.

Rural electric cooperatives across America have dispatched their employees as NRECA International volunteers for decades to help bring power to schools, homes and businesses in some of the most impoverished areas of the world.

NRECA knows that bringing reliable and affordable electricity to rural areas in our home states and also overseas can be a life changing event for schools, homes and businesses. We ask that you support Africa's energy development which will ultimately improve the quality of life for millions of people. It will also help us here at home as the outcome of this bill can strengthen ties and create more allies in the region, and increase the ability of this continent's consumer base to purchase more American goods, and in turn help create jobs here at home.

NRECA stands ready to continue our partnership with the U.S. Government and stakeholders on this urgent effort to bring electricity to the 550 million people who do not have access to it in sub-Saharan Africa. We urge you to support passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Connor", is written over a circular stamp that contains the name "Jeffrey Connor".

Jeffrey Connor

Interim CEO, NRECA