

July 22, 2016

TO: NRECA Board of Directors  
Distribution CEOs  
Statewide Managers  
G&T Managers

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***Electric Co-op Leaders Take Message to GOP Convention***

The [electric co-op message](#) shared by NRECA's [Board officers and co-op leaders](#) at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland drew a lot of interest and positive responses to co-op positions on energy, rural economic development and other issues. We talked with more than 50 [members of Congress](#), governors and stakeholders, including House Speaker Ryan (R-WI). We also made sure candidates and party leaders were aware of the [Co-ops Vote](#) initiative and co-op members pledging to vote on Election Day.

Highlights include NRECA Board President Mel Coleman speaking at a [Global Oval](#) forum on how electric co-ops share their rural electrification expertise and experiences to help boost access to electricity in developing countries and promote the co-op model. We're taking our co-op message to the Democratic National Convention next week in Philadelphia! Follow along at [#CoopsAtConventions](#).

***NRECA Interns Take the Lead for Co-ops Vote Hill Day***

All 535 congressional offices got the word on our [Co-ops Vote](#) initiative from NRECA summer interns who led the way for our [Co-ops Vote Hill Day](#). About 20 interns stopped by House and Senate offices and stood near Capitol subway stations to share our non-partisan brochures about electric co-op issues. This was a learning experience for our interns, as they took the lead on developing the event strategy, designing the special t-shirts they wore and coordinating communications efforts, including a sign truck featuring our Co-ops Vote message.



***Lesser Prairie-Chicken ESA Listing Withdrawn Under Court Order; Another Proposal Likely***

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a [final rule](#) withdrawing its "threatened" species listing of the lesser prairie-chicken. The FWS took the action under a 2015 federal court order that struck down the Endangered Species Act listing, finding the agency's analysis for the listing was "neither rigorous nor valid." The court ruled in favor of challenges by NRECA and others because the FWS analysis didn't consider the latest data from a broad, collaborative Range-Wide Conservation Plan in five Southwest states and wrongly assumed the voluntary plan would not be carried out.

However, we may soon face another fight on this issue. The FWS [announced](#) it is doing a new

status review for the species, and environmental groups may also file another petition which could lead to another proposed listing in 2017. Part of NRECA's opposition to any proposed listing will be to highlight that electric co-ops and others continue to be engaged in the range-wide plan to protect the species.

### ***Youth Leadership Council Brings Enthusiasm to D.C.!***

It was an exciting week with the 43 [Youth Leadership Council](#) members in Washington, D.C.! We're proud to have them as electric co-op program ambassadors, and you'll see many of them at our 2017 Annual Meeting. Congratulations to our 2016-17 [YLC](#) spokesperson Sylandi Brown of Georgia (Middle Georgia EMC), who will speak at the Annual Meeting on behalf of the YLC. The runner-up is Devin Richards of Idaho (Clearwater Power Cooperative).

We also congratulate this year's Glenn English Foundation Scholarship recipients: Nora Faris (West Central Electric - MO) at University of Missouri; Hayden Johnson (Cobb EMC - GA) at Anderson University; Lyle Kwiatkowski (Custer Public Power District - NE) at University of Nebraska - Omaha; Sarah Locke (Shelby Electric - IL) at Lake Land College; and Laurel Tilton (Butler Rural Electric - OH) at DePauw University.

### ***G&T Seeks FERC Rehearing on Request to Recover Lost Revenues***

Tri-State G&T filed a request for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rehearing of its decision denying Tri-State's request to recover lost revenues from a member co-op. The case has attracted wide attention among co-ops, and several other G&Ts also filed rehearing requests. Last month, FERC rejected Tri-State's proposal to recover lost revenues from Delta-Montrose Electric Association, which purchases power from qualifying facilities (QFs), such as renewable generation, instead of the G&T. FERC said the request is inconsistent with the commission's June 2015 order in a related case involving Delta-Montrose. The commission ruled it would effectively undo Delta-Montrose's statutory obligation to purchase from QFs and limit QFs from selling power to the co-op at negotiated rates.

### ***NRECA Seeking Co-op Proposals for Regional Centers Initiative***

NRECA's Board of Directors approved the establishment of a Regional Centers Initiative project that is designed to promote opportunities for co-ops to collaborate on developing new technologies, business models and systems that can be easily and broadly deployed by co-ops. We are now seeking nominations from member systems for projects that can help get this initiative off the ground.

You can find more information about the Regional Centers Initiative [here](#), and the nomination information [here](#). Nominations are due by 5:00 pm EDT on August 15, 2016. For additional information, please contact [Venkat Banunarayanan](#) in the Business and Technology Strategies Department.