

November 4, 2016

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

Mike Peterson Remembered as Inspiring Colleague and Friend

The electric cooperative community is deeply saddened at the passing of [NRECA Utah Director and Utah Statewide Manager Michael F. Peterson](#), who died Monday after his courageous struggle with a brain tumor. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike's wife Sheri and their family, and his Utah electric co-op colleagues. He was greatly respected among his colleagues on the NRECA Board and Rural Electric Statewide Managers Association, who remember his genuine compassion for others and the keen insights and upbeat attitude he brought to discussions. Mike inspired those who knew him as a co-op leader who worked up the ranks from lineman, and as a neighbor engaged in his community. [Funeral services](#) will be held Monday, November 7, in Highland, UT. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, Board President Mel Coleman and several NRECA staff will join other electric co-op leaders and friends to honor Mike and his service to electric cooperatives and support his family.

Co-ops Vote Highlights Voter Impact at the Ballot Box

Our [Co-ops Vote](#) message going into Election Day next Tuesday highlights the far-reaching impacts co-op members and employees have when they go to the voting booth. Co-op voters' decisions at the ballot box can influence elected officials (local, state and national) and help ensure their co-op issues are recognized after the elections. Keep encouraging co-op voters to show up at the polls in a year when larger turnouts are expected. More than 22 million people have cast ballots during the early voting period in three dozen states. Thank you for your commitment to helping to boost the impact of your vote by encouraging family and friends in the community to take the Co-ops Vote pledge and help get the voice of rural America heard. Use the social media hashtag [#CoopsVote](#). Thank you to the more than 110 co-ops that have achieved [5-Star Co-ops status](#) and are working to promote Co-ops Vote participation!



Co-ops Building Momentum in Messages on RS Plan Benefits

Nearly 7,000 co-op employees have answered the call to "take 5 minutes" to log on to [Action.coop](#) and urge Congress to pass legislation that will protect NRECA's [Retirement Security Plan](#) (RS Plan) from increased future costs. Thank you! We still have more work to do, and it helps to build momentum before Congress returns after the elections. We're emphasizing to Congress that when costs increase for the RS Plan, it makes it more difficult for our co-ops to maintain their current benefit programs. Please continue urging your employees to log on to [Action.coop](#), and tell Congress to pass our bill as soon as possible. In 2016 alone, it would save about \$30 million for the 880-plus co-ops participating in the RS Plan.

CoServ Digs Deep Again to Support NRECA International Efforts

Thank you to the CoServ (TX) Board of Directors and employees for their [\\$20,000 donation](#) to NRECA International's efforts. CoServ line workers Perry Ancell, Shea Hassell and Cody Coulter, who volunteered to help build a cooperative in Haiti, were joined by Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) for the presentation during his visit to CoServ facilities. Rep. Burgess is a CoServ member, and recognized the three line workers' volunteer efforts in Haiti on the floor of the House of Representatives this year. NRECA International will receive \$15,000 for electricity projects in developing countries. The other \$5,000 is an emergency grant to benefit the co-op in Haiti, which was devastated in [Hurricane Matthew](#).