

Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D.

Florida's Second Congressional District

Statement of support for Rural Utility Service (RUS) Electric Loan Program

Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Bishop, and members of the subcommittee, as you consider the Fiscal Year 2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill, I want to express my strong support for robust funding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's.

In Florida's Second Congressional District, consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives provide electricity for more than 300,000 residents and business owners. Floridians in the Second District can count on cooperatives to provide affordable and reliable electricity, in part because of the low interest financing that RUS Electric Loans provide. I also know that RUS Electric Loans, which are repaid with interest, are a good deal for the taxpayer. In Fiscal Year 2017, the program will net more than \$300 million for the U.S. Treasury.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to share with the subcommittee how this vital public-private-partnership impacts the people of Florida's Second Congressional District, and I request your support for robust funding of the RUS Electric Loan Program in Fiscal Year 2018. Should you or those on your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Evan Lee in my office at 202-225-5235.