**FECA Lobbying Plan**

1. Developing relationships
	1. Member systems
		1. Establish and maintain a relationship with local elected officials.
		2. Notify statewide of “friendly” candidates that may run for the Legislature or Congress in their service territory.
		3. Support friendly candidates through ACRE and other legal methods.
		4. Develop and maintain relationships with elected officials and their staff.
	2. FECA
		1. Develop relationships with candidates for the Legislature and Congress that FECA’s members have positive relationships with.
		2. Develop and maintain relationships with other candidates that could be influential.
		3. Support good candidates with ACRE and through other legal methods.
		4. Develop and maintain relationships with present and future leadership in addition to other members of the Legislature and Florida’s congressional delegation.
		5. Work with the Florida Chamber, AIF, and other lobbyists to identify good candidates for future elections.
2. Identify issues and develop response to each issue
	1. FECA will work with co-op members, NRECA, the Florida Chamber, AIF, the state utility lobby group, and other lobbyists to gather information and develop responses to industry issues.
	2. FECA staff, with the assistance of the members, will monitor energy related legislative and regulatory proceedings for electric co-op specific issues and will work with the members and the Board to develop a response.
	3. NRECA and the members will identify federal issues, and FECA shall work with the members to jointly influence NRECAs resolution process and other decision making processes.
	4. For Florida specific federal issues FECA will work with its members and other Florida lobbying groups to influence Congress.
3. Lobbying Process
	1. Statewide staff continuously monitors legislative issues as they develop. Through member co-ops and established contacts (legislators, legislative staff, agency staff, consultants and other lobbyists), statewide staff is proactive in identifying potential issues that may surface in the Florida Legislature. At the federal level, we rely on NRECA and other sources to identify issues of interest to Floridas cooperatives. If an issue requires direction from the Board, it will be addressed by the Board during a regularly scheduled meeting if time permits, or through the Executive Committee if time is of the essence.
	2. Florida lobbying
		1. Identifying issues –
			* 1. FECA staff and General Counsel will draft and promote proposed legislation at the direction of the Board.
				2. Review bills and amendments – The General Manager and the Director of Legislative Affairs, with the assistance of the Director of Regulatory Affairs and, when needed, the General Counsel, will review bills for issues related to electric cooperatives and draft amendments as necessary.
				3. Testimony – The General Manager will be the primary spokesman in committee hearings, and will be prepared to testify on co-op issues as necessary. Statewide will call upon various cooperative representatives to testify if necessary. FECA’s lobbyists also will be available to provide responses to Legislative inquiries.
		2. Lobbying staff – FECA will maintain one full-time employee whose primary responsibilities are to work with the Florida Legislature when they are meeting in Tallahassee, and will work on ACRE and other legislative and regulatory issues when the Legislature is not in Tallahassee. FECA also will maintain consultants to support statewides lobbying efforts. The General Manager will assist with lobbying efforts whenever possible.
		3. Grassroots - The need for local lobbying assistance (from co-op management and Trustees) is available and is called upon when staff determines that grassroots lobbying is needed. If a large grassroots effort is needed, it can be rapidly mobilized by Calls to Action from statewide staff to the General Managers. Each General Manager then determines how his co-op staff and others are to be utilized. This system works and can be adapted quickly to a specific lobbying effort.
	3. Federal lobbying
		1. NRECA will inform statewide and the members as issues arise in Congress. FECA will make sure that the member co-ops are aware of the issues.
		2. NRECA maintains a professional lobbying staff. FECA and its members stand ready to assist NRECA as requested. NRECA will notify statewide of the specific congresspersons that need to be contacted on a particular issue. Statewide will communicate with those offices and request that the cooperatives in the congressperson’s district also communicate with those offices. FECA will maintain DC based consultants as necessary to support statewides lobbying efforts.
		3. Grassroots - The need for local lobbying assistance (from co-op management and Trustees) is available and is called upon when NRECA determines that grassroots lobbying is needed. If a large grassroots effort is needed, it can be rapidly mobilized by Calls to Action from NRECA or statewide staff to the General Managers. Each General Manager then determines how his co-op staff and others are to be utilized. This system works and can be adapted quickly to a specific lobbying effort.