**ACRE Cookout**

**Jan. 24, 2018**

For those of you that plan to have office meetings at the Capitol next week, **we would greatly appreciate it if you do not leave any position papers behind**. Please feel free to leave behind materials relating to your co-op and an invitation to the cookout.

We will not know exactly which bills will be up next week, but it is likely that hurricane legislation will be discussed. Our message is simple, please continue allowing the electric co-ops the flexibility to restore power in the safest, fastest way possible without mandates or any expansion of the PSC’s jurisdiction over co-ops. Below are some suggested talking points on the various issues. **If Statewide needs to follow-up with any Legislators please let Allison Carter know, 850-567-0059.**

* **Co-op 101**
  + With the rapid turnover in the legislature, it is always good to ask legislators and staff if they understand electric co-ops. Many times, this will lead to an opportunity to explain the electric co-op model, emphasizing our not-for-profit status and democratically elected Boards.
* **Hurricane Priority Lists / Disaster recovery deadlines (No bill numbers as of yet)**
  + Please **SUPPORT** legislation allowing electric utilities the flexibility to determine how power should be restored after an emergency in the most efficient and expedited manner.
  + We **OPPOSE** legislation that would mandate or inhibit electric co-ops’ ability to work to restore power in the fastest and most practical manner for their community.
  + We appreciate and understand the discussion regarding restoration efforts after any disaster.
  + Our goals are the same. Restore power back to every residence and business in the safest, fastest way possible.
* **Medically Essential Electric Utility Service (SB 1630/HB 1081)**
  + We are still working with the bill sponsors to better understand their desired outcome of this bill. In its current form, we **OPPOSE** the legislation.
  + This would expand PSC jurisdiction over the coops by creating notification and certification requirements for all electric services providers to be submitted to the PSC.
* **Mandating Undergrounding Facilities**
  + We **OPPOSE** legislation that would**:** 
    - Mandate undergrounding facilities.
    - Expand the PSC’s jurisdiction over co-ops.
* **Energy 2040 Task Force (SB 1038 – Brandes / HB 1411 – Diamond)**
  + Please do not mention this bill, but if you are asked about it, we are concerned about the bill and want to work with the sponsors to improve the legislation.