



### *Notes to Co-op Nation*

May 3, 2013

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

FROM: Jo Ann Emerson

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#### ***Co-ops Proud and Strong in D.C.***

Wow! I was inspired by the 1,500 electric co-op leaders who reached out to their congressional offices on Capitol Hill during Legislative Conference. Your enthusiasm for our priority issues will give us a boost when Congress returns next week. We even heard that more House members contacted the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee to support the RUS Electric Loan Program after your visits this week. Thank you for giving your time and treasure to help make a difference! Please continue to urge your senators to sign our Senate RUS letter led by Sens. Heitkamp (D-ND) and Isakson (R-GA).

If you couldn't get here, you can see your co-op colleagues and hear about their experiences on our [Facebook](#) page.

I also attended my first National Preference Customer Committee meeting this week. I look forward to working with this experienced group of advisors in continuing to ensure that our federal hydropower infrastructure and the PMAs remain a vital part of America's energy backbone.

#### ***Dozens of Co-ops Tell DOE We Need Workable Water Heater Standards***

More than 70 electric co-ops sent comments urging the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide a common sense approach to large electric water heater efficiency standards. Thank you for this outstanding effort! NRECA sent [comments](#) to get our concerns on the record and to urge DOE to provide a workable five-year waiver that will let co-ops continue deploying large water heaters in demand response programs that benefit consumers.

We also still need to back up our comments with support from Capitol Hill. So, please urge your members of Congress to sign letters to DOE led by Rep. Barrow (D-GA) and Sen. Chambliss (R-GA).

#### ***Cybersecurity Advocacy Continues in Congress and at Agencies***

Our advocacy on cybersecurity is very active, both in Congress and with the Administration. We continually stress that the federal government must share information so we can do an even better job of protecting the grid. During the Legislative Conference, many of you asked Senate staff to work on information-sharing legislation similar to the recently passed House legislation

we supported. We also filed [comments](#) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology that described other ways government and the private sector can cooperate on cybersecurity – without new, burdensome regulations.

### ***Farm Bill Legislation Mentioned for Possible Action***

Top Senate and House agriculture leaders are talking about moving a farm bill through their committees this month and possibly to floor debate. Sen. Stabenow (D-MI) and Rep. Lucas (R-OK) are working to get a full, five-year bill passed before current law expires in September. When this bill starts to move, we'll be looking for opportunities to get several electric co-op issues addressed.