(State) Electric Cooperatives Alarmed by President Obama’s Proposal to Increase the Price of Electricity

Dateline – In a speech today at Georgetown University, President Obama announced a broad new federal mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants. The President will instruct federal regulators to apply the Clean Air Act to carbon dioxide issued from power plants, effectively outlawing coal-burning facilities.

While the President’s scheme will impose a massive new climate tax upon all consumers; (state name)’s electric cooperatives are especially concerned about this proposal because rural and low-income Americans already spend disproportionately more on energy than others.

“The President’s plan will hit co-op served families and businesses in (state) awfully hard,” said (spokesman). “Rural communities have been put through an economic wringer for the better part of a decade; they’ve made incredible sacrifices. What sense does it make for the President to pile on with this climate tax?”

The President’s climate tax fails to take into account electric cooperatives existing efforts to integrate renewable energy into our power portfolios. More than 13 percent of the power co-ops generate nationally comes from renewable sources. Co-ops are also at the forefront of energy efficiency initiatives; reducing the need to build expensive new power plants.

“Ultimately, electric cooperatives are about keeping electric bills affordable; providing underserved communities the power they need to improve their quality of life,” said (spokesman). “The President’s proposal will make electric power more expensive, causing families and businesses to sacrifice on top of all the other uncertainty in our national economy. Without question, electric bills will get bigger for the Americans who can least afford to pay them.”

If the President doesn’t see the importance of affordable electric power, (state) co-ops will help bring it to his attention.”

(Statewide Boiler Plate)

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