Thank you for sending your comments

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced two proposals limiting carbon dioxide emissions from new and existing power plants. These proposals have the potential to affect the affordability and reliability of electricity.

Thanks to many advocates like you, Iowa’s electric cooperatives were able to send over 10,000 comments to the EPA urging them to adopt “all-of-the-above” energy strategies. The nation’s electric cooperatives sent over a million comments. As a result of your efforts, the EPA now has a better understanding of how these new proposed rules could affect the reliability and affordability of power in rural Iowa.

Prior to the November elections, employees, directors and managers of your cooperative reached out to Iowa’s congressional candidates to advocate on behalf of member-consumers. Iowa’s newly elected congressional delegation is educated and keeping a close eye on the two EPA proposals.

The EPA plans to finalize their proposal mid-summer 2015. Iowa’s electric cooperatives are focused on determining the impact that these proposed rules will have on member-consumers. The RECs will continue to advocate for affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power.

Follow Iowa Rural Power on Facebook and Twitter to stay up-to-date on advocacy activities. Thank you again for your hard work and participation in this advocacy effort.

Iowa’s electric cooperatives will once again be promoting their values and principles with candidates in the upcoming elections. This summer, representatives from Iowa RECs will attend events for presidential candidates and ask them questions of interest to member-consumers. This service project for members is a great way to establish positive relationships with and educate the presidential candidates on electric cooperatives. Check out the IA Rural Power website to see what this service project has to offer!
Each year, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosts events throughout the state legislative session. Two of those events are the Welcome Back Reception and REC Day on the Hill.

The Welcome Back Reception is held each year on the second day of the state session. This reception provides representatives from Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives with an opportunity to meet with recently elected and re-elected state legislators. Over 100 legislators, along with Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds and Secretary of State, Paul Pate, attended the reception.

The legislative agenda discussed with legislators included: the inclusion of geothermal on section 476 renewable energy tax credits, legislation encouraging utility-owned solar, accountability for the Iowa Energy Center, policies supporting a skilled workforce in the utility industry and educating legislators on proposed EPA rules regarding the Clean Air Act. Representatives were also able to educate legislators on their cooperative and contributions to rural economic development in their communities.

The annual REC Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 16, 2015. REC employees, managers and directors will gather in Des Moines for a full day at the Capitol. Many of Iowa’s RECs will have displays at the Capitol. The booths display a variety of topics including: energy efficiency, economic development, Youth Tour, rural broadband and more.

Aside from the Welcome Back Reception and REC Day on the Hill, cooperatives come to the Capitol individually throughout the session to spend more time with their legislators.

These various events provide an opportunity for Iowa’s electric cooperatives to discuss issues with Iowa’s legislators that are important to Iowa RECs and their member-consumers.

Advocates in action

Photos above: Directors, managers and employees from Iowa’s electric cooperatives meet with state legislators at the Capitol. They spend their day at the Capitol advocating on behalf of member-consumers and ensuring that power remains affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible.

Advocates from Iowa’s electric cooperatives will travel to Washington, DC, in May to meet with Iowa’s congressional delegation.

This will be the first fly-in since the November elections. Advocates will meet with all of Iowa’s congressional offices while in town.