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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Electric cooperatives discuss important issues with state legislators at reception

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 – DES MOINES, IA – Nearly 150 directors, managers and staff members from Iowa's electric cooperatives met with over 100 state legislators on January 13 during the Welcome Back Legislative Reception at the State Historical Building in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, the Iowa Communications Alliance and the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa, hosted the annual reception.

The reception provided an opportunity to meet with recently elected and re-elected legislators to discuss issues regarding safe, reliable and affordable energy options for all Iowans. Important issues for the rural electric cooperatives this session include:

- the inclusion of geothermal for renewable energy tax credits
- legislation encouraging utility-owned solar
- accountability for the Iowa Energy Center
- policies supporting a skilled workforce in the state
- EPA proposed rules regarding the Clean Air Act

In the coming months the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related items central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, the directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues that allows for Iowa's member-owned rural electric cooperatives to continue providing affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans.

Electric cooperative representatives from all parts of the state will come to the state capitol in the next couple of months, where they will be able to visit with their legislators once again. The annual REC Day on the Hill will be held on March 16, 2015, at the capitol.

About IAEC

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives represents the interests of not-for-profit electric cooperatives, including 34 distribution co-ops and 7 generation & transmission co-ops. Owned by the members they serve, Iowa's electric cooperatives power the lives of 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties and are committed to delivering power that is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible. Formed in 1942, IAEC provides many vital functions for its members including legislative representation, regulatory oversight, training and education services, safety programs, and communications support. Learn more at www.iowarec.org.

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