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Iowa House and Senate pass Concurrent Resolution calling on FEMA to reverse disaster aid denial during 2nd day in session

DES MOINES, Iowa - Earlier today the Iowa Senate and Iowa House unanimously passed a Concurrent Resolution calling on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reverse its decision denying federal disaster aid to Iowa electric cooperatives and municipal utilities following snow and ice storms last year.

“The strong support for this Concurrent Resolution shows the broad support for electric cooperatives in Iowa and the need for FEMA to reverse its historic decision,” said Marion Denger, president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. “FEMA has the evidence in front of them to show that their denial is unwarranted and an unprecedented departure from past practice. We hope the support for this resolution, along with the continued support from Iowa’s congressional delegation, sends a clear signal that this denial is unnecessary.”

The resolution states, “for the first time in the nation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has determined that these utilities have not been able to substantiate that their conductor was in good repair and was properly maintained prior to the storm event because unprecedented physical testing of their overhead lines was not performed.”

Additionally, it highlights the fact that the Iowa Utilities Board, which regulates Iowa electric cooperatives and utilities, requires regular reliability plans and system inspections proving that the affected systems were in working condition before the storm. FEMA has argued that without comprehensive laboratory testing of transmission lines, the cooperatives and utilities would be unable to show that damage was caused during the storm.

Lyon County Rural Electric Cooperative, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Osceola Rural Electric Cooperative and Sanborn Municipal Utilities, along with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, have filed a formal appeal with FEMA, asking that they reverse their decision.

The full resolution is available online [here](#). More than 100 directors of Iowa electric cooperatives were in attendance this afternoon as the Iowa Senate passed the resolution.

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