



2024 Legislative Conference

Federal Advocacy Priorities

Prioritize Reliability

American families and businesses expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford. Our nation's energy policies must meet this fundamental expectation.

Keeping the lights on is not a partisan issue. As the demand for electricity grows and available supply declines, we must have a serious policy conversation in this country about where we're going and what it will take to realistically get there.

The stakes are too high to get this wrong. Reliable electricity is vital to America's economy and national security. Against that backdrop, Congress should:

Oppose EPA's Power Plant Rule:

- EPA's power plant greenhouse gas rule jeopardizes co-ops' ability to keep the lights on. It mandates unproven technologies and unachievable emissions limits on an unworkable timeframe in violation of the law and Supreme Court decisions.
- The rule will force the premature closure of always available power plants while also making it harder to build critical new power plants, just as Americans increase their dependence on electricity.
- **Congress must oppose EPA's unworkable Power Plant Rule.**

Protect USDA Funding for Co-ops:

- In 2022, Congress created a new voluntary grant and loan program at USDA designed specifically for electric co-ops pursuing energy innovation.
- This "New ERA" program helps co-ops adopt new energy systems in ways that make economic and technological sense for the local community.
- **Congress must oppose cuts to New ERA.**

Safeguard Rural Electric Infrastructure:

- A reliable broadband connection is vital for a modern electric grid and creates new ways to live, learn, and earn in rural America.
- Electric poles are important to efforts to deploy rural broadband. However, legislative or regulatory proposals to alter communications provider access to co-op electric poles can jeopardize safety and reliability while driving up costs for rural electricity.
- **Congress must oppose pole attachment rules that put electric systems at risk.**

Alleviate Supply Chain Challenges:

- As demand for electricity increases, co-ops continue to face challenges in procuring grid components in a timely way at a reasonable price.
- Unfortunately, DOE's recently proposed transformer efficiency rule would have exacerbated these existing challenges and driven up cost – for minimal efficiency gain.
- Instead, because of co-op advocacy and Congressional pressure, DOE's final rule is much improved over its initial proposal. The final rule provides stability for most of the market, while affording a more gradual shift toward tighter efficiency standards for transformers used to meet larger commercial loads.
- **Thank members of Congress who supported HR 7171 and S 3627, and tell Congress we support this more sustainable transformer efficiency goal that won't exacerbate existing supply chain challenges.**

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www.electric.coop/issues-and-policy