



District Offices

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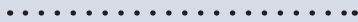
567 West Pierce
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573-2666

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Henry Lorenzen, Attorney

OR-48

Manager's Message



Dear Member,

In May, OTEC joined other Oregon electric cooperative leaders to make the trek to Washington, D.C., to lobby our elected officials on behalf of the more than 200,000 members of Oregon's electric co-ops.

During the visit, the group met with representatives from Oregon's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, and U.S. Reps. Peter DeFazio, Kurt Schrader, Greg Walden and David Wu. The group also met with leadership offices and key committees with jurisdiction over the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets electricity to Oregon cooperatives.

Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association President Roman Gillen testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Water and Power Subcommittee on the importance of keeping rates affordable for consumers.

Some legislators outside the Northwest have proposed an energy tax on customers of BPA to help reduce the deficit. Gillen noted that while Northwest residents are concerned about the deficit, "it makes no sense to impose an energy tax on those who can least afford it," such as those on fixed incomes.

During the meetings, the rural electric leaders made the following points:

- More than 30 percent of electricity bills are dedicated to programs for fish and wildlife. Oregon's electric cooperatives believe we need to end the current litigation on fish and wildlife, and support the unprecedented collaboration between the federal government, states and tribes.
- We take our responsibility seriously to provide reliable service, but federal regulations can be burdensome and costly without improving the reliability of the electrical grid.
- While electric cooperatives support renewable energy, we need to be certain the region is prepared to handle the rapid growth of wind generation on the region's transmission system.

The meetings were in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference, a gathering of 3,000 co-op leaders from across the country. Why do all of these co-op leaders come together? For one reason: to look out for our members.

Our top priority is to ensure our members continue to have affordable and reliable power. One of the main ways we do that is by letting our state and national legislators know we hold them accountable on behalf of our members—because it's our energy, our future and, ultimately, our electric bill.

With warmest regards,

Werner Buehler