

May 2025

# Capitol Connection

*West Kentucky Rural  
Electric Cooperative*



## NRECA's legislative and regulatory priorities

### **Meeting Growing Energy Needs.....Requires Smart Energy Policies**

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

Spurred by data centers and manufacturing, electricity demand is skyrocketing across the nation. According to the North American Reliability Corporation, electric demand growth is the highest it has been in over two decades.

Over 2,000 electric cooperative representatives, including WKRECC President & CEO David Smart, recently visited Capital Hill to make sure electric cooperative members' needs are met today and in the future.

### **NRECA's top regulatory priorities for 2025**

**Permitting Reform**—The overly bureaucratic federal permitting process imposes unreasonable timelines and drives up costs for essential infrastructure projects.

**Pass additional permitting reform legislation including judicial reforms to make it easier to build essential electric infrastructure.**

**Unwind EPA Regulations**—EPA's power plant rule is forcing the premature closure of always available power plants and putting grid reliability in jeopardy. It mandates unproven technologies on an unworkable timeframe in violation of the law

and Supreme Court decisions.

**Repeal EPA's unworkable power plant rule.**

**Protect Hydroelectric Power**—Hydroelectric power is a reliable, abundant source of clean electricity. But an agreement made during the Biden administration sets the stage to breach the Lower Snake River dams, jeopardizing reliability and increasing costs for consumers.

**Rescind the short-sighted Lower Snake River Dam removal memorandum of understanding and support hydroelectricity.**

**Defend Against Wildfires**—Wildfires are a growing threat to electric infrastructure. Managing vegetation near rights-of-way is essential to defending against wildfire threats.

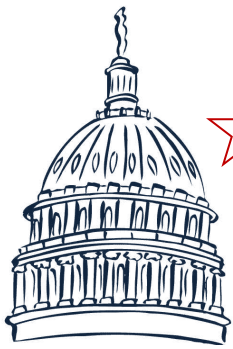
**Pass the Fix Our Forests Act to facilitate co-op vegetation management efforts.**

**Maintain RUS Electric Loan Funds**—Co-ops rely on USDA's Rural Utilities Service to finance construction of electric infrastructure. Co-ops reliably repay these loans with interest. This means that the RUS Electric Loan program makes money for the federal government.

**Sign the RUS Electric Loan appropriations letter to support full funding for rural electric infrastructure.**



Continued on Page 4



# Role of the TVA Board



*David Smart,  
President & CEO*

**TVA began the year with an announcement from President & CEO, Jeff Lyash, of his intention to retire from TVA in 2025. His retirement date was dependent on the TVA Board of Directors naming a successor. Since that time, the TVA Board has named Don Moul as the new President & CEO of TVA.**

Hiring a new CEO is just one responsibility of TVA Board members. Below, I have provided insight on the selection and role of the TVA Board and why the TVA Board is important to you as a member of West Kentucky RECC.

## **TVA Board**

As provided by the TVA Act and the TVA Bylaws, the principle responsibilities of the TVA Board are to establish strategies, goals and objectives; set long range plans and policies; and to ensure they are implemented by TVA staff, which is led by the Chief Executive Officer.

## **TVA Act**

The Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 sets forth the membership, operation, and duties of the board of directors of TVA. According to the TVA Act, the board shall be composed of 9 members appointed by the President of the United States, with at least 7 being residents of the service area of TVA. Board qualifications include: being a citizen of the US; having management expertise relative to a large for-profit or non-profit corporation, government or academic structure; not being an employee of TVA; disclosure of any personal investments held in the energy industry; and affirming support for TVA's missions of being a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, and environmental stewardship.

In appointing members to the Board, the President considers recommendations from governors and congressional delegations serving states within the service territory, individual citizens, business, labor, electric power distributors, environmental, civic and service organizations. Geographic representation from within the TVA service area must also be considered.

Presidential appointees must be confirmed by the Senate. The process to seat new board members is generally an 8-12 month process due to the steps that must be taken prior to seating the new members.

Board members are generally appointed to serve five-year terms. The terms of the directors are staggered in order to maintain business continuity during board member transitions.

## **TVA Board Today**

Following the removal of two Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) board members by President Trump this spring, the remaining four member TVA Board is currently without a quorum, meaning it cannot conduct business. While TVA can keep the lights on, a quorum is needed to approve business plans, such as a budget and the Integrated Resource Plan (which includes TVA's roadmap for building new generation and from what sources new electricity will be produced), invest in new generation, hire a CEO (if needed) and establish rates.

## **West Kentucky RECC Position**

While in Washington, I made sure to notify Senator McConnell of the importance of expedited confirmation of any Presidential appointments.

TVA needs to build additional generation to meet the growing demand for electricity in the Valley. It is not good for West Kentucky RECC's members when TVA is not to be able to conduct business.

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## Advocating for the interests of electric co-ops

### One vote, One voice.



In 1966, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) was established as the federal political action committee (PAC) of the nation's electric co-ops. In 2023, the PAC's name was changed from ACRE to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.

**America's Electric  
Cooperatives | PAC**

America's Electric Cooperatives PAC supports political candidates who will speak for and protect the interests of electric co-ops and their consumer-owners. With your contribution, America's Electric Cooperatives PAC supports candidates who understand that our energy must be safe, our electricity must be reliable and our electricity costs must remain affordable.

America's Electric Cooperative's PAC is a bipartisan PAC that makes contributions to candidates running for political office who are aligned with electric cooperative values. A candidate's political affiliation is never taken into account. Before any support is given, America's Electric Cooperatives PAC works closely with our state associations to determine which candidates to support. With the exception of a small federal tax payment of less than 1%, all personal contributions to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC go directly to the campaigns of candidates for political office. In addition, about half of your contribution may be refunded to your state electric cooperative PAC to support candidates for state and local office.

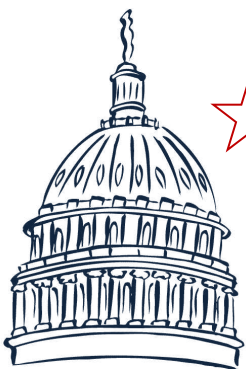
Please consider joining America's Electric Cooperative's PAC and help make sure your electric cooperative has a powerful voice in Washington. Contact Jodie Hansen, West Kentucky RECC's Media Relations and Communications Coordinator, at 270-247-1321 or by email at [jhansen@wkrecc.com](mailto:jhansen@wkrecc.com) for more information. The suggested contribution is just \$2.08 per month added to your electric bill, or a single contribution of \$25/year.

#### **Legal Disclaimer:**

*Contributions to the NRECA America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nationals who lack permanent resident status. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.*







## NRECA legislative and regulatory priorities cont.



**FEMA Public Assistance**—Disaster relief funding is critical to restoring electric service after natural disasters. Without this assistance, recovery time and expense will increase drastically for small and rural communities who can least afford it.

**FEMA should continue to invest in rebuilding and resiliency.**

**Tariff Impact on Electric Supply Chain**—Co-ops rely on a global supply chain to secure the materials and equipment that help ensure a reliable, affordable, and safe electric system. Higher prices will stretch budgets and lead to higher electric rates and greater uncertainty for rural communities.

*Above: Representatives from electric co-ops around Kentucky meet with Senator Mitch McConnell.*

*Bottom Left: Chris Perry, President & CEO of Kentucky Electric Cooperatives with Congressman Comer.*

*Bottom Right: David Smart Addresses Co-op concerns with Congressman Comer.*

