



Engaging with legislators



From the desk of
CEO & General Manager
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“ Our message to representatives was simple: we all need to work together to protect safe, reliable and affordable electric service. ”

Over the last few months, we at the co-op have been very involved with the legislative process, engaging with legislators on both the state and federal levels. Even though I say “over the last few weeks,” in reality this is an ongoing process as we continually engage with our representatives through meetings and one-on-one discussions throughout the year.

Building these close, working relationships with our representatives is key to our continued mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to you, our members. Laws and regulations passed on both the state and federal level can have a significant impact on the co-op’s cost of doing business, as well as the cost of providing electricity to your home or business.

Our message to representatives was simple: we all need to work together to protect safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Engaging this message with legislators allows us to provide input and feedback into proposed legislation. This input allows us to help our legislators make informed decisions and craft laws that address your needs and concerns.

So what exactly are the messages we discussed with legislators during our most recent meetings?

On the state level, we centered our discussions around increased penalties for attacks on critical infrastructure, continued economic development across North Carolina, protecting our state’s energy portfolio, as well as funding to continue innovation in the electric utility industry. We also emphasized the continued need to expand access to rural broadband funding and support our local telecommunications cooperatives in their mission to expand broadband into our communities.

On the federal level, our discussions focused primarily on how their decisions and legislation have a tremendous impact on the reliability of the service we are able to provide to our members. As our country continues to strive toward transitioning to net-zero carbon emissions, which we support, we must also be careful at the speed that we are required to get to that point. In order to achieve this result, a disconnect has been rapidly developing between generation resources that are being mandated to be taken offline and the availability, and quite frankly the reliability, of resources being required to be put back on the grid. As we continue to trend towards an economy ever more dependent on electricity, we MUST be conscious of the full-time capacity and running time of resources we use to power our economy. This includes solar and our renewable resources. However, and this is important, it also includes the ability to quickly and cost-effectively construct constant and reliable generation resources such as small modular nuclear and natural gas.

Thank you to our U.S. Sens. Thom Tillis and Ted Budd, U.S. House Rep. Richard Hudson, N.C. State Sens. Jim Burgin and Tom McInnis, and N.C. State House Reps. Robert Reives, John Sauls and Joe Pike, as well as each of their staffs, for taking the time to hear our thoughts on issues important to our members. We appreciate their work to help protect the service we provide to you, our members and their constituents.

Eddie B. Oldham