

CHEC Representatives Discuss Energy Issues with Elected Officials

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative Representatives recently traveled to Washington DC and Raleigh to discuss energy issues with Federal and State representatives. North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide energy to more than 2.5 million people across 93 of the state's 100 counties and have long supported responsible stewardship of the environment balanced with providing safe, affordable, and reliable electricity. Cooperative management and directors lobby state and national elected officials to make them aware of electric cooperative member interests and concerns.

CHEC Executive VP Jim Kinghorn and Directors Richie Midgett, Elvin Hooper, Clifton Duke and Norman Campbell, met with more than 120 North Carolina electric cooperative peers on Capitol Hill May 25-27. With Congress poised to debate energy legislation, North Carolina's electric cooperative representatives discussed critical energy issues, including funding and regulation, with US Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan, and US Representative Walter Jones.

Electric Cooperative representatives urged Senators Burr and Hagan and Representative Jones to take a balanced approach to energy legislation – one that achieves real environmental goals without draining family budgets or further harming the economy. "Affordable energy legislation is important to our members, and our members' interests were represented during our visit with our Congressional delegation," said Kinghorn.

Proposals before Congress could limit the emission of carbon dioxide from mobile and stationary sources in the United States. The Environmental Protection Agency has begun the process to regulate CO2 emissions under the Clean Air Act, regulations that will take effect if Congress fails to act. "Allowing EPA to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants under the Clean Air Act, which was never intended for this purpose, would place additional financial burdens on our members," Kinghorn said. "We believe Congress should develop fair and balanced energy legislation that takes into account the broader impact on the economy, consumers, and the benefits to the environment."

In June, Director Midgett, EVP Kinghorn, Manager of Finance and Administration, Susan Flythe, and Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Rich Kenner travelled to Raleigh for a Legislative Rally with state officials. North Carolina electric cooperative representatives held meetings with their state Representatives and Senators at this event. The CHEC representatives met with Representative Tim Spear and Senator Marc Basnight and urged them to continue to work closely with NC electric cooperatives when considering legislation that could have an impact on electric cooperative members.