




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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DREMC Board and Staff Visit with State Legislators

Directors and employees from Tennessee's electric cooperatives traveled to Nashville in March to meet with their legislators at the State Capitol. The Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference brought more than 200 co-op member-owners face to face with their elected representatives, maintaining a long-standing tradition of support for the members of rural electric cooperatives. Board members, managers and other employees were briefed at an update on Monday, March 2, on the legislative issues facing their co-ops. Sen. Bill Ketron of Murfreesboro discussed legislation that was important to the state's electric cooperatives, including pole attachment fees. And staff from the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) gave detailed information about bills that could directly affect electric cooperatives in the state.

The co-op delegations had a long day on Tuesday, March 3, as they made their rounds through the halls of the state legislature. Each year, each co-op group visits the Senators and house members that represent the districts in its



service area, They come not just as constituents, but also as representatives of their member-owned utilities.

With many new faces in Tennessee's General Assembly, co-op visitors began their legislative visits by introducing their elected representatives to the important role of member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives in communities across the state. They then discussed major issues that will affect Tennessee's rural electric co-ops, including Duck River Electric.

"We simply would not have the support that we have were it not for our grassroots efforts," said David Callis, TECA director of government and public affairs. "By having the 'folks back home' come to Nashville and meet with the people they elect, it really helps us drive home our stand on the issues. Lawmakers recognize our long tradition of putting people over profits."

TECA represents Duck River Electric and 21 other electric co-ops and one municipal electric system in Tennessee. Tennessee's electric cooperatives provide electricity and other services to more than 2 million residents of the state. Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities governed by their members. You can see current legislative news by going to www.tnelectric.org.