

# Your Voice on Capitol Hill

Since its inception in 1942, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has worked the halls of Congress on behalf of electric co-ops and their members. The organization has fought for comprehensive energy policies that benefit co-op consumer-owners.

Rural Friends/ACRE is a nonpartisan political action committee (PAC) that helps supporters of electric cooperatives who are seeking a seat on the Texas Legislature or the U.S. Congress. It operates under the guidelines and policies of a board of directors composed of electric cooperative leaders from around the state. The membership also consists of co-op members who help defend their local electric cooperative and care enough to contribute to the progress and growth of their cooperative and the communities it serves.

Contributions go to candidates for state and federal office who have demonstrated support for electric cooperatives. Support is based on their voting records on legislation

affecting electric cooperatives, their statements on cooperative issues and their historical stance on those issues. Rural Friends contributes to state office candidates and ACRE—the Action Committee for Rural Electrification—contributes to candidates for the U.S. Congress.

Decisions to support a candidate or incumbent are made on the basis of that individual's record on rural electrification, not on the basis of political party. In Texas, both Democratic and Republican legislators are supported. Rural Friends/ACRE is subject to all state and federal campaign finance laws and reporting requirements.

### The Power of Grassroots

Aside from raising money, Rural Friends is also a grassroots effort that encourages political participation at the local level. The power of constituency means voters can voice their opinions to local leaders. Individuals who come together as a group speak with a louder voice and gain greater access to the process.

## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

You don't have to be in Washington, D.C., to impact the political process. You can play an active role in protecting co-ops from harmful legislation and regulation and in promoting the value of co-op ownership to your legislators.

- The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is the political action committee formed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in 1966 to support congressional candidates who support co-op goals.



### Membership Form

\$500 Presidential     \$150 Century Club Plus  
 \$100 Century Club     \$50     \$25

Contributions to political action committees are not tax deductible.

Check enclosed     Please bill my HILCO Electric Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: HILCO Electric Co-op, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Itasca, TX 76055