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Clinton County Connection

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Mike Johnson

I would like to challenge the membership to increase our penetration rate to 20 percent by the end of July 2010.

We need you to get engaged in the political process!

Recent months have certainly seen dramatic change in regards to potential federal Climate Change legislation. In order to help you better understand where we are today, let me give a brief summary on how we got here.

In late June of last year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 2454. That bill set mandates on carbon emissions and proposed to put a “Cap and Trade” component in place that would essentially set the price on carbon emissions. Later in 2009, the U.S. Senate started to work on its own Climate Change legislation that appeared to be heading to stricter emission standards than even the House-passed bill. One of a number of important events over the past six months in the Senate climate legislation process was the election of Scott Brown in the Massachusetts special election to fill Senator Ted Kennedy’s seat. Many observers felt the election of Brown sent a message that the economy and jobs, and not health care reform or climate change, were perhaps the key issues of concern for the American electorate.

Meanwhile, the Administration upped the pressure for the Senate to act on climate legislation when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began taking actions toward regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. And, in late 2009, the much anticipated international climate summit in Copenhagen ended up satisfying virtually nobody.

For over six months now, Senators John Kerry (D-Mass), Joe Lieberman (I-Conn) and Lindsey Graham (R- SC) have been the key individuals attempting to come up with comprehensive Senate climate legislation

that can get 60 votes (so as to cut off a potential filibuster). As I write this in late April 2010, the recent big news is that Graham (the key Senator in reaching out for Republican votes), may discontinue his participation in these efforts over a dispute with Senate Democratic leadership on the issue of immigration reform. At the very least, the much anticipated release of the three Senators’ climate legislation has been delayed – with many observers believing that unless Graham becomes reengaged, comprehensive climate legislation is unlikely to pass the Senate this year.

Meanwhile, the EPA continues to move forward in its efforts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions (carbon emissions) under the Clean Air Act – something for which the Act was never intended and is likely, according to the former Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to result in a “glorious mess.” NRECA, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, agrees with this assessment of U.S. Representative John Dingell (D-MI) and believes it is the responsibility of our elected officials in Congress – and NOT an administrative agency like the EPA – to develop, formulate and implement any Climate Change policy through legislation.

This is a brief summary of where we are as of April, 2010. Your Cooperative needs you to get engaged in this political process. NRECA has a tool that will enable your engagement.

This tool is fairly simple to navigate, simply go to www.ourenergy.coop ; on the

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left side of the page you will see "Take Action" (in blue). Under that heading there will be a link "Contact Elected Officials." Click on that link. This will begin your conversation with your federal elected representatives.

Then enter your zip code into the box and hit GO; this will inform the tool as to who your elected officials are. The current campaign with www.ourenergy.coop is to tell Congress that they need to step in and prevent EPA from using the Clean Air Act as a means for reducing greenhouse emissions. As stated before, we believe this is the responsibility of our elected officials in Congress.

You will see a notation to "Compose Message." We would prefer you select e-mail rather than printed letter for delivery of this message. There is a box for you to personalize your message, but as the website states, please

do not put your name and address in this section as it may appear in other public sites. Enter your name at the bottom of the "Compose Message" section – this will simply be your signature for the email.

For example, if your zip code is 62230, Senators Durbin and Burriss will receive e-mails asking them to co-sponsor legislation that would be designed to limit the EPA's authority in regards to using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases. Congressmen Shimkus will receive an e-mail thanking him for his support on this important issue.

Completing the next section "Sender Information," is critical to our "grassroots" movement. This data will be used to build our database for future conversations with your elected officials. Currently, 500 members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative

are registered in this database, and with about 4,900 active members, that results in a pretty good penetration rate of a little more than 10 percent.

I would like to challenge the membership to increase our penetration rate to 20 percent by the end of July 2010. This will greatly assist us in efforts to get our messages to your federal elected officials. If you do not have access to the Internet please stop by our office and fill out a postcard that we will mail to the NRECA and they will hand deliver it to the respective elected official.

In advance, I thank you for getting engaged in this political process and for taking the time to read this article, and always if you have any questions, concerns or comments please call me at 526-7282 or email me at johnson@cceci.com.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



CCECI Open House		
CCEC'S headquarters in Breese:	Saturday, July 17, 2010	Registration begins at 9 a.m. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.
CCECI Area Meetings		
District #1-Carlyle VFW	Wednesday, October 27, 2010	Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.
District #2-Breese K OF C	Wednesday, October 27, 2010	Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.
District #3-Albers Legion	Thursday, October 28, 2010	Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

Please come & meet the employees and directors of your cooperative.

CCEC performs Live Line Demonstration

Several CCEC employees traveled to Carlyle to participate in the Corps of Engineers Earth Day on April 16, 2010. The linemen used the Live Line Demo to teach 385 area grade school students power line safety. The students learned the hazards associated with animals, tall farm/work equipment, tree limbs and fallen power lines. The demonstration is shared by CCEC and several other Southern Illinois Electric Co-ops.



Lineman Gary Albers explains some of the dangers associated with working on live power lines. He expressed the extreme safety measures that are used to keep linemen and the public safe.



Lineman Brian Taylor uses a number of various pieces of Personal Protective Equipment during the demonstration. The students learned about the special tools and clothes linemen need to keep them safe while they work.



Hot dogs are used in a simulation to show the effects from when a human person comes in contact with a high voltage power line. The line that the hot dogs are touching is 7,200 Volts.

Students got a very visual lesson on how trees can be dangerous when touching energized electric lines. In the example pictured above, a green tree limb was set on top of live equipment and began to spark and burn.

Students meet their legislators



An Energy Efficiency Program for Electric Cooperative Members

Please see pages 20-21 for more information, and/or call our cooperative's contact:

**Sue Laux
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618-526-7282**



Rep. Mike Bost, Sen. David Luechtefeld and Sen. John O. Jones met with three students representing Clinton County Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 21, in Springfield. The students had an opportunity to view state government in action on probably one of the busiest days this year at the state capitol. More than 200 interest groups and an estimated 15,000 people converged on the statehouse to ask lawmakers to approve a tax hike in order to avoid major budget cuts.

The students also heard from State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias during their lunch break.

Pictured from left are: Ahren Langhauser, Sen. John O. Jones, Haley Fisher, Amy Huelsmann, Matt Geiger, Rep. John D. Cavaletto and Sen. David Luechtefeld. Students also met with Sen. Kyle McCarter and Rep. Mike Bost.

The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 246 students representing co-ops from across the state.

Employee spotlight - Gary Albers

This month we are highlighting long-time Cooperative Employee, Gary Albers, more popularly known as "Goober."

Goober has been employed with the Cooperative for just over 37 years, having been hired in 1972 to work in the Engineering Department. After about three years of basically "inside" work, a position became open for a lineman and Goober decided to start his lineman's career.

"I really enjoy the challenge of keeping the lights on, battling the elements and the critters, always keep things interesting,"



Gary Albers

Goober stated. "I always think that I have seen just about everything there is to see in the field, then something new pops up. In this field, you learn something new just about everyday."

Goober resides in Breese with his wife of 27 years, JoAnn. He has two sons, Matthew of Breese and Jeremy and his wife Janece and grandson Conlan of Trenton. When not working, Goober enjoys spending time on his houseboat on Carlyle Lake with family and friends. He also spends some time hunting and fishing with his brother.