

Our Energy, Our Future What Does It Mean to Our Consumers?

Along with providing power to your home or business, part of our responsibility at Pointe Coupee Electric is to keep tabs on the federal and state legislative arenas on your behalf.

We monitor legislative activity and weigh in on those proposals that will most likely diminish service reliability and/or increase the price you will pay for electric power delivered to your home or business.

For two simple reasons, I believe this role is as critical today as it has ever been. First, both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government are now under control of one political party, and second, our political leaders have pledged to act aggressively in making our country energy independent while addressing the controversial issue of climate change.

I want to be clear with you: as a non-profit cooperative, it's not our place to practice political partisanship. But because we represent your interests and the interest of this community, we will speak out against any and all proposals that could make electricity a luxury item in your home or business.

One such bill is now under consideration by congress. Within its 650 pages is an alphabet soup of programs and proposals: C&T, CCS, RPS, EER. It would take a lot of time and ink to adequately explain what these letters mean, but as I've studied the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), it spells one thing to me: **T-A-X**.

Simply put, this plan will constrict the amount of carbon emissions that power generation plants, refineries and other industries are allowed to emit. Those that emit less than the allowance will earn a credit, while those that surpass the limit will owe a credit. This will effectively create a new commodity out of thin air - carbon credits - that the government plans to auction off to the highest bidder. And only God knows where that will lead.

We would then have yet another complex, exotic, high-risk financial invention that normal people like you and me can hardly understand or be able to define, much like a stock derivative or a credit default swap. And we all know where that's gotten us.

But my biggest objection is that the ACES bill will increase the financial burden of all American families. Those who have studied the proposal say it will increase the price your family pays for power anywhere from a few hundred dollars a year to \$4,000 a year, depending on whether you're looking at just the monthly light bill or also factoring in the price increase that will be passed along by manufacturers that use power to make their products.

I invite you to log on to the web site www.ourenergy.coop or write to your representatives in Washington and **Urge Congress** to work with electric co-ops to meet both federal public policy goals and your need for affordable, reliable electricity.

On behalf of your board, management and employees, we are committed to looking out for you. At Pointe Coupee Electric, we are connecting people ð .impacting lives!