

# OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

DOUGLAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.,  
ROSEBURG, OREGON  
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## OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT . . . ROBERT POAGE  
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DIRECTOR . . . . . LARRY SHIPLEY  
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MARK DOTY  
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## OFFICE MANAGER

PAUL LEONARD

## MEMBER SERVICES

TODD C. MUNSEY

## Mission Statement

“The mission of Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned and operated cooperative, is to provide affordable, reliable electric and other compatible services that enhance the quality of life for its members, using progressive marketing in conjunction with sound financial and management principles.”

**DOUGLAS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## What's Going On At Your State Capitol?

Dear Members,

The Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA) is working hard to make sure electric co-ops are well represented this session. How does ORECA determine whether to support or oppose a bill? The key is how a piece of legislation or policy being considered might affect “local control,” or add cost with no benefit. Local control is your right to determine what is in the best interest of your electric coop through a locally elected board of directors. Several bills would have electric co-ops regulated by the state, which ORECA opposes. Electric co-ops are able to provide affordable power because decisions affecting rates are made locally—not by state regulators. Here are a couple of examples:

### Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Bill

Governor Kulongoski’s office is introducing a bill that would require all utilities to purchase a significant amount of energy from renewable sources other than existing hydro. It is clear electric co-ops will be included in this RPS mandate. With 70% of our energy already coming from a renewable source - hydro, our landfill gas project at Coffin Butte and our involvement with the wave energy project in Gardiner, we think mandates are not only costly, but unrealistic and unnecessary. Your locally elected board should decide when your co-op should integrate more renewable energy beyond hydro. ORECA is drafting a bill that would protect local control for electric co-ops.

### Biofuels

Several bills about biofuels have been introduced with the intent of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles. The two main fuel sources of biofuels are biodiesel—made from oilseed crops, used cooking oil and animal fats—and ethanol, which is distilled from corn. This relatively new industry could be an economic boost for rural areas, as well as the atmosphere. ORECA is watching these bills closely.

### New State Fees

A bill to help fund the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would have meant higher rates for electric co-op consumers if passed. The PUC’s bill would require electric co-ops to pay a percent of their gross revenue to the PUC for “safety inspections.” This would be an additional \$100,000 a year for the PUC collected from co-op member electric rates. With strong support from Representative Bruce Hanna, ORECA was successful in squashing this bill. It made no sense for electric co-ops to support a state agency from which it receives no direct benefit.

On additional matters up north that could affect you directly, we’ll keep you posted.

Best Regards,  
Dave Sabala  
General Manager

Visit our Web site at [www.douglaselectric.com](http://www.douglaselectric.com)

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