

Supporting Those Who Support Us



SHAWN TAYLOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As state legislatures meet across the country and Congress debates whether Bert and Ernie should receive federal funding, I thought it appropriate to at least write a little bit about our political system, namely political action committees or PACs.

Political cynics often use PACs as an easy target to explain what's wrong with our political system. Sure, there are some very powerful PACs that have a great deal of influence with elected officials because of the money they give; however, if you look at the genesis of the cooperative PAC, you'll see that it's not about buying influence. Instead, it's about supporting the elected officials who share our values and support the program.

In fact there are a number of instances in which people we have supported haven't always voted the way we would like them to, but because of the mutual support and respect shown over the years, we are able to have a civil conversation about our differences.

As a consumer-owner of a rural electric cooperative, you are among 42 million Americans who can claim ownership in a not-for-profit, consumer-controlled utility that provides electricity at cost. The Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE) Co-op Owners for Political Action® program provides an exciting opportunity for you to raise your voice and participate in the political process.

The ACRE is the PAC of the nation's electric cooperatives. For more than 40 years, ACRE has been working to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and for state legislators who understand and support electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners. Through ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, you as a consumer-owner have the ability to strengthen this support and join more than 30,000 ACRE members who form a strong grassroots network dedicated to the long-term success of the electric cooperative program.

I hope that you will consider this program and contact your local cooperative to learn more. Together we will continue to fight for a viable environment for electric cooperatives and for the quality of life of the people and communities that cooperatives serve.

Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® are not tax deductible. All contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. Contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal.