



**Jim Matheson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

December 4, 2024

President Donald J. Trump  
Presidential Transition Office  
The Mar-a-Lago Club  
1100 South Ocean Blvd.  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the nearly 900 not-for-profit electric cooperative members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), I write to offer sincere congratulations on your election as 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and to urge your administration to take actions that will ensure electric cooperatives can fulfill their mission of delivering affordable, reliable, and safe electricity.

America's electric cooperatives comprise a unique sector of the electric industry. These not-for-profit entities are independently owned and governed by the people they serve. From growing exurban regions to remote farming communities, electric cooperatives provide power to 42 million Americans across 48 states. They serve 56 % of the land in the United States, that is primarily residential and typically sparsely populated. Those characteristics make it comparatively more expensive for electric cooperatives to operate than the rest of the electric sector, which tends to serve more compact, industrialized, and densely populated areas.

Locally, co-ops are focused on powering and empowering their communities. Nationally, electric co-ops are focused on advocating for smart energy policies that keep the lights on. This includes supporting a diverse supply of always available energy resources and pressing for solutions to meet skyrocketing electricity demands at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

Our nation is at an energy crossroads. And your leadership in our nation's energy policy is more critical than ever.

As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important - or more challenging. Over the next five years, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation forecasts that all or parts of several states from North Dakota to Louisiana are at high risk of rolling blackouts during normal peak conditions. Flawed public policies that force the premature closure of existing power plants are a big reason why. This problem is compounded by the rapid growth of data centers in rural areas – some forecasts project data centers will consume 9% of all US electricity generation by 2030.

We stand ready to support the Trump administration in swiftly implementing a pro-energy policy agenda with a focus on affordability and reliability for American families and businesses. The highest priority actions your administration can take include:

- Repealing EPA's unlawful power plant rule for greenhouse gas emissions as well as numerous other unlawful EPA regulations that threaten electric reliability;

- Fixing broken permitting regulations to streamline and accelerate project reviews;
- Repealing harmful public lands and species conservation rules which make it challenging, and sometimes impossible, to operate and maintain powerlines that span federal lands and to mitigate wildfire risks;
- Reversing the harmful plan to continuously attack, and eventually remove, the Lower Snake River Dams which power the Pacific Northwest with a reliable and affordable supply of hydroelectricity;
- Making effective and efficient use of the remaining infrastructure dollars appropriated by Congress in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to invest in our electric infrastructure, enhancing grid reliability and resiliency;
- Ensuring access to federal programs utilized by cooperatives across the country to harden, upgrade, and modernize their systems in ways that will bolster affordability and reliability for rural Americans, keep pace with the increasing electricity demand in rural America, and deploy broadband to unserved rural communities, thereby boosting economic growth; and,
- Supporting Treasury's successful implementation of direct pay (or elective pay) tax credits which level the playing field for electric cooperatives and allow them to utilize the tax credits available to the rest of the energy sector and invest in a range of energy technologies in their local communities.

The electricity supplied by cooperatives is vital to rural economies. Continued rural development requires access to affordable, reliable electric power, as well as access to high-speed broadband. Regulations that are not cost-effective and increase the cost of producing that electricity, or that threaten its availability, pose serious threats to the rural American economy.

We stand ready to support the efforts by your White House, the new National Energy Council and all federal agencies with jurisdiction over energy to enhance affordability and reliability for American consumers. Policies that prioritize investment in American energy production, manufacturing and infrastructure are crucial for the wellbeing of rural communities. We urge you to take a coordinated approach which ensures that energy projects can be built efficiently, effectively, and at reasonable cost. And we look forward to supporting your administration's efforts to cut costly and burdensome regulations that would otherwise undermine affordability and reliability.

Congratulations once again, and we look forward to working with your administration to keep energy reliable and affordable for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Matheson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Matheson  
CEO