

# Key Issues

## DATA CENTERS AND LARGE LOADS

- Indiana electric cooperatives have an obligation to serve all loads in their service territories, including data centers and other large industrial developments — and we are stepping up to meet the moment to serve.
- We are working with developers to support economic growth and job creation in rural Indiana.
- Existing members are protected: cooperatives require developments to cover 100% of the costs associated with serving them, ensuring growth does not impact current members.
- **As member-owned, not-for-profit utilities, co-ops balance growth with community interests.**

## NTIA, BEAD, AND POLE ATTACHMENTS

- NTIA's BEAD terms and conditions attempt to require cooperatives that are subgrantees to comply with FCC pole attachment rules - directly conflicting with the explicit exemption granted by Congress.
- We ask your office to be aware of this conflict and oppose any efforts to usurp electric cooperatives' exemption from FCC pole attachment rules.
- **We ask your office to be aware of this conflict and oppose any efforts to usurp the explicit exemption for electric cooperatives and the FCC pole attachment rules granted by Congress.**

## STREAMLINE FEDERAL PERMITTING PROCESSES

- Lengthy federal environmental reviews and litigation delay transmission, generation, and grid reliability projects while raising costs for cooperative members.
- Support reform through legislation such as the SPEED Act (HR 4776) and the PERMIT Act (HR 3898) to expedite federal permitting and implement judicial reforms that limit costly lawsuits.
- **Do not subject locally controlled and governed electric co-ops to new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulation.**

## Legislative Requests

### INCREASE RUS LOAN FUNDING

- Demand for USDA Rural Utilities Service loans is rising due to electrification, data centers, and supply constraints.
- These loans are reliably repaid with interest, generating revenue for the federal government.
- **Please increase RUS Electric Loan Program funding and give USDA more flexibility to make additional loans, with Congressional approval, when demand for financing peaks.**

### FEMA ACT OF 2025

- Preserves FEMA's Public Assistance program that cooperatives rely on after major disasters — without it, rural members would face significantly higher electric rates.
- Speeds reimbursements to 120 days for both emergency and permanent work, compared to the current multi-year process.
- Expands hazard mitigation access and allows recovery of loan interest.
- **Please support and cosponsor H.R. 4669.**