

# Verendrye Electric Cooperative, Inc.



## 2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### Adopted RESOLUTIONS

#### *Members of the Resolutions Committee:*

*Jim English, Chrm.*

*Karen Hennessy*

*Brenda Schmitt*

*David Martin*

*Fred Beuchler*

*Ashley Bruner*

*Erin Anderson*

## **CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

### **1) RURAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Continuing**

Keeping farm families on their land will benefit Verendrye Electric Cooperative and all of North Dakota. We support North Dakota's long tradition of keeping production agriculture in the hands of family farms. Therefore, we urge continued funding of those Rural Development programs, which will help the family farm. Priority should be placed on loan programs that will help family farms diversify by investing in ways to process and market their products. We continue to support other rural economic development activities including rural housing, energy development, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. We encourage Congress to continue to fund the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) and the Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program (RCDG) that are administered by the USDA.

We encourage the Administration and Congress to work to improve the business economy through rural renaissance zones and other applicable incentives to stimulate growth. Verendrye Electric Cooperative reaffirms our long-time support for reasonable economic development efforts for the City of Minot and the surrounding region.

We support efforts to expand value-added agriculture and other ag-related industries in the area, including the Logistics Park of North Dakota

### **2) SUPPORT FOR POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATION RETENTION - Continuing**

We strongly oppose changing from a cost base to a market base rate for hydro-generation. At market rates the costs for power would dramatically increase and the incentive to use this environmentally friendly power source would diminish.

We strongly oppose the sale of the power marketing administrations (PMAs), which include Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) generation and transmission facilities, which supply Verendrye Electric Co-op reasonably priced power. We support the continued current management of the PMAs by their respective federal agencies, i.e. WAPA.

### **3) NORTH DAKOTA TERRITORIAL LAW – Continuing**

We are strongly opposed to either weakening or repealing the ND Territorial Law of 1965. We urge continued vigilance in this area of potentially recurring legislation.

### **4) RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES LOAN SUPPORT – Continuing**

We believe that there is continued need for a distribution and transmission loan program for those Rural Utilities Services (RUS) Program systems serving areas with low consumer density per mile of line. We strongly encourage Congress to fully fund the insured RUS loan program and the guaranteed loan program. This financing is crucial to the rural way of life.

### **5) E.P.A. REGULATORY CONCERNS - Continuing**

Verendrye Electric Cooperative believes that climate change concerns should be addressed by the U.S. Congress through legislation, rather than by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through

administrative rulemaking. The Clean Air Act of 1970 was never intended to address greenhouse gasses or climate change and EPA should not have jurisdiction to limit greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. We encourage all government officials to visit our coal-fired power plants, which are some of the cleanest in the world.

6) **SUPPORT FOR GROUND BASED STRATEGIC DETERRENT (GBSD) INITIATIVE** - Continuing

The Minot Air Force Base plays a crucial role protecting U.S. citizens and helping keep peace in the world with its nuclear deterrent that consists of 150 Minuteman III missiles and a fleet of B-52 Bombers. The base is an economic engine for our region, providing more than \$600 million in economic impacts to the area. Verendrye Electric Cooperative serves the base and 40 of its 150 missile sites, while four other electric cooperative serve the remaining missile sites.

The military has begun making plans for replacing the aging missiles under the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) plan. The missiles and associated infrastructure are decades old. Verendrye Electric supports GBSD and encourages the Administration and Congress to fund the program to include upgrading the missiles and associated infrastructure controlled by the Minot Air Force Base. We urge the Administration and Congress to include electrical infrastructure as part of the infrastructure to be improved under the GBSD plan.

7) **NET METERING** - Continuing

Verendrye Electric Cooperative opposes any net metering laws or rules that result in some members subsidizing electric service of others. Proposals requiring cooperatives to pay retail rates to members generating their own power do not take into consideration the costs of distribution and transmission infrastructure and backup services supplied by the cooperative. Net metering proposals must take into consideration there are times of the year and even times of the day when power costs are higher. Power generated from net metering facilities often cannot be dispatched during periods of higher costs when it is most needed. Decisions on net metering policies are best made by each individual electric cooperative. Proposals for any net metering laws or rules should include input from electric cooperatives.

8) **ELECTRIC VEHICLES** - Continuing

Electric vehicles (EVs) are becoming more common, more affordable and with increased range. Charging stations for EVs are also becoming more widely available.

Verendrye Electric recognizes the potential of EVs to benefit the cooperative and its members. We are educating members about EVs by using one for our business operations, and by installing EV chargers, including a fast charging station.

Verendrye Electric supports policies and investments that encourage the use of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to support them, including state and federal grants to help increase the amount of charging stations across the country.

## **CURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

1) **SUPPORTING “ALL OF THE ABOVE” ENERGY STRATEGY - Current**

Verendrye Electric Cooperative supports an “All of the Above” approach to electricity generation resources. This strategy is also supported by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and many other cooperatives. While new renewable energy projects are on the rise, our baseload coal generation remains a vital source of reliable energy, as well as gas generation and other sources that are currently part of the cooperative family’s energy portfolio. A diversified portfolio will help maintain affordable and reliable electricity. Having an “All of the Above” approach also improves our national security when geopolitical events happening around the world disrupt energy availability and prices. We discourage policies that prevent renewable or baseload energy plants from being constructed in North Dakota.

2) **SUPPORT INVESTMENT IN RELIABILITY FROM INFRASTRUCTURE BILL**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law in November 2021 to provide \$1 trillion for infrastructure nationwide. The Act specifically identifies opportunities for cooperatives, including funding for grid resiliency and modernization, physical and cybersecurity, clean energy programs and electric vehicle infrastructure. Verendrye Electric Cooperative urges the federal government and state governments to include opportunities specifically for cooperatives as they develop the programs and application process. Improving infrastructure of cooperatives will benefit the communities served by cooperatives and help create jobs.