



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Update



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A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

“The truth is that no one knows the whole truth.”

It's Sunday evening. My vacation began last Friday, but the magazine needs to go to print and everything is held up because of me. The folks at *Ranch and Rural Living Magazine* are very patient with me, but waiting until I get back from vacation is out of the question. So, here I sit wondering what electric utility pearls of wisdom to impart.

Our article concerning Cap and Trade got me in a little trouble with a couple of you. The article was, in essence, information bits from our National Association's political activism campaign, "Our Energy Our Future". The campaign is aimed at making rural consumers aware of the fact that big changes are being contemplated in the Climate Change Bill working its way through Congress. Not only are the changes big, they are expensive, as well. So, we asked you to let your elected officials know what you are concerned about, and we asked you to say "no" to Cap and Trade.

When a train is leaving the station, a train you need to be on, and it is obvious the train is headed in the wrong direction — you only have two choices — jump on, or try to stop it. If it is headed in the wrong direction, it doesn't matter what the intentions of the engineer, conductor, the switchman, or the brakeman are.

Well, here is the upshot; the House of Representatives heard you and cooperative members across the country loud and clear. Congressman Waxman invited electric cooperatives to the table to get our input. Our first concern was that the bill, as drafted, shifted a disproportionate share of the cost to rural consumers. Electric cooperatives are not opposed to fixing the problem. In fact, when it comes to the environment, if we are going to make a mistake, let's err on the side of caution. It will cost us all something, but let's make sure it is fair.

Global warming is here and it is caused by the activities of man. Global warming is occurring, but it is simply the result of weather trends that have nothing to do with man's activity on earth. Take your pick. There are learned individuals on both sides, and they can, with complete honesty, argue the issue round or flat. The truth is that no one knows the whole truth. It is a fact that the temperature of the earth, when averaged worldwide, has increased approximately one (1) degree Fahrenheit since 1970, according to the EPA's website. The cause is what no one can determine with certainty.

In a letter to Congressman Waxman, Glenn English, CEO of NRECA, our national association, thanked him for making language changes to the bill that eliminated the fairness issue. He then stated that NRECA still has concerns and will continue to work with members to resolve those concerns.

Please rest assured that when we take a position, it is not to favor one political party or another. The board of directors and I have only one goal, to make sure that whatever happens with the Climate Change Bill, rural consumers are treated fairly.

I hope everyone is having a great summer!