OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The Oregon Legislature is underway. The leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—have made it clear that passing cap-and-trade legislation is a priority.

Under cap and trade, the "cap" is a firm limit on carbon emissions that gets stricter over time. The "trade" part is for companies to buy credits on the open market to exceed the limit. Money raised by the program would go into a funding pool for climate-friendly initiatives.

Cap and trade is opposed by many Oregonians who argue the proposal will not make a dent in global carbon emissions and will raise the cost of almost everything consumed. Opponents believe our lawmakers should focus on policies that resonate at least nationally—if not globally—to ensure the outcome has an effect on worldwide carbon output. The greenhouse gases emitted by Oregon truckers, commuters, utilities, manufacturers and other entities are barely measurable on a global scale.

It is important to note Oregon's environmental initiatives already are stronger than those in many states and nations. If companies leave the state for less restrictive locales—or if Oregon companies switch to buying products manufactured and shipped under lighter regulations—Oregon is the loser.

Under the current Legislature, the end result is almost certain. It is essential the program is designed to do the least amount of economic damage possible. It is important to take the time necessary to craft good legislation and do what is best for all of Oregon, both rural and urban.

Join ORECA-Action at ORECA-Action.org in support of commonsense solutions for Oregon. By joining, you will maximize your voice and become part of a growing team of electric cooperative advocates in the state of Oregon. Together, we can make a difference!

MEC Prepares for Annual Meeting
Preparations are progressing for Midstate Electric's 67th Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, May 11. The event provides you with a chance to participate in the business of your electric cooperative. It also provides you with a firsthand look at many of our programs and services. Registration, health fair and barbecue lunch all begin at 10 a.m. The business meeting starts at noon.
Please note: The new location is La Pine High School.

**Scholarship Applications
Due May 6, 2019**
MEC is offering seven $2,500 scholarships for persons attending accredited colleges/technical schools. Three scholarships are available for seniors who will graduate from La Pine, Gilchrist and North Lake County high schools; one scholarship is available to seniors attending home school or other high schools in MEC's service area; two at-large scholarships are for people who have already graduated but want to continue their education; and one scholarship is available for lineworker school. Applications are available at www.mse.coop.

**Dave Schneider
General Manager**