



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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#### Departments

Customer Service ..... Option 3  
Engineering ..... Option 4  
Marketing ..... Option 5  
Operations ..... Option 6

**After-Hours Outage and  
Emergencies: (541) 536-2165  
or (800) 752-5935**

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday  
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Closed Fridays and holidays

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### President

Leland Smith, Sunriver

##### Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Vic Russell, Fall River

Robert Reed, La Pine

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Board meets the fourth Monday  
of each month at the co-op office.

#### STAFF

##### General Manager

Dave Schneider

##### Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

##### Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

##### CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Manager's Message

### Dear Member:

Gov. Kate Brown recently signed two executive orders to enact green energy mandates on new construction and increase the number of electric vehicles in the state. She said her goal for issuing the executive orders is to “drive the state’s efforts forward in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

Under the first executive order, homes built after September 2020 and commercial buildings built after October 2022 must be equipped for solar panel installation. All parking structures for new homes and commercial buildings must be wired for at least one electric vehicle charger by October 2022. It will be required that all new homes be “zero-energy ready” by October 2023, with commercial construction facing similar mandates.

The second order sets a goal of at least 50,000 registered electric vehicles in the state by 2020. With 16,000 electric vehicles registered in Oregon now, this is a massive increase during just three years.

Solar can be a great option in some areas, and the same can be said for electric cars. To enforce these changes statewide without full study and debate, however, is problematic. A one-size-fits-all approach doesn’t work for the entire state.

An estimate of how much the executive orders will cost was not provided. Undoubtedly, there will be increased costs throughout the state to implement these mandates that will trickle down to ratepayers. There is no question new construction costs will increase.

### Fish and the Dams

For the past several months, I have shared with you my concern of the state’s legal

action against the federal hydroelectric system to spill water over the Columbia and Snake river dams to increase fish survival. According to respected fisheries’ scientists, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, spill will harm fish due to increased levels of total dissolved gases in the rivers. This increase basically gives fish the bends, just like scuba divers get when they return to the surface too fast after a prolonged dive.

The Bonneville Power Administration estimates the spill will cost ratepayers approximately \$40 million a year—a 2 percent increase per year for Midstate Electric Cooperative members. Power will need to be generated by natural gas to make up for the loss of clean, renewable, non-carbon-emitting hydropower.

The spill runs counter to Gov. Brown’s executive order goal to “drive the state’s efforts forward in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

If you are concerned about the state’s efforts to increase your rates, I encourage you to join our grassroots group, ORECA-Action. Click on the green tab on the top right of our home page at [www.mse.coop](http://www.mse.coop), or call (541) 536-2126, option 5.

### Retirement of Capital Credits

I am please to report the board of directors has authorized the retirement of capital credits. See page 8 for information on this and other co-op news.

### Happy Holidays!

Our office is closed Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Our after-hours outage line, (541) 536-2165, is open 24 hours a day to assist you.

**General Manager Dave Schneider**