



1. How much interaction do you have with electric cooperatives in Iowa?

I meet with Iowa electric cooperatives several times throughout the year. My staff and I maintain regular contact with representatives from both the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. I rely heavily on their input when considering various policy issues in the Senate.

2. How will your energy plans provide affordable and reliable power to rural Iowa?

I will continue to support policies that give rural electric cooperatives the flexibility to utilize a diverse set of resources to provide affordable and reliable power to their customers.

3. Iowa's electric cooperatives are successful proponents of renewable energy resources in our state. However, obstacles remain for shifting to a 100% renewable portfolio, such as extreme weather patterns, source intermittency, and limits on battery storage technology. Simply put, how will your energy plan compensate for electricity needs in February when the sun isn't shining, the wind isn't blowing, and battery storage options are limited due to their current performance in colder temperatures?

I support an all-of-the-above energy approach that increases America's domestic production and promotes energy independence. Using our plentiful fossil fuel reserves, increasing utilization of renewables, and building on advances in energy efficiency, we have the ability to pursue an energy strategy that creates jobs and provides reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy for American families and businesses. Policymakers must acknowledge each state's unique energy resources and needs, and as the transition to renewables continues, we must be cognizant of how energy and tax policies will impact the reliability and affordability of electricity. For this reason, I have supported policies that incentivize renewable energy, like the wind production tax credit, not policies that mandate it, like the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan.

4. Co-ops across the country are able to deliver electric service to rural areas in part due to low-cost financing from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service. Allowing borrowers to refinance RUS debt would help make up for the expected \$10 billion loss nationwide due to COVID-19 and allow essential rural utilities to be a part of the long-term recovery for our members-consumers. It is estimated that \$200 million dollars in savings would be realized in Iowa alone. If elected, would you support or cosponsor the Flexible Financing for Rural America Act (H.R. 7483/S. 4152) to allow borrowers to refinance their RUS loans without penalty?

I am a proud cosponsor of S. 4152, the Flexible Financing for Rural America Act of 2020.

- 5. Iowa co-ops pride themselves on being champions for their community and leaders in economic development. Through the Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program (REDLG) through the USDA, electric co-ops have helped bring millions of dollars in investment to rural Iowa. How will you work to strengthen the REDLG program in the next Farm Bill and beyond?**

As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy, I will have a seat at the table when the next Farm Bill is being written. It is imperative that we look at all the farm bill programs, including the REDLG and make sure they are not only completing their missions and helping Iowans, but that remain in place for at least another 5 years and hopefully well into the future. Programs like the REDLG are essential to modernizing our rural communities.

- 6. What other ideas on strengthening rural Iowa, such as support for the biofuels industry, are unique to your campaign that would be of interest to electric cooperative member-consumers?**

I have fought relentlessly to not only protect the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) but to also promote and make possible the widespread use of higher ethanol blends, like E15. I have gone toe to toe with EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and ensured that President Trump is on the side of farmers when it comes to biofuels. We successfully guaranteed the sale of E15 year-round and most recently the President committed to making sure that higher blends of ethanol can be sold from existing infrastructure. This will expand the demand for ethanol by giving consumers more and cheaper choices at the pump.