



Rural Power

Iowa's electric
cooperatives

Energizing rural
economic growth

Iowa Rural Power Candidate Questionnaire

Candidates can provide answers via video message, “op-ed” style submission, or another written form of response. Responses will be shared in their entirety with the member-consumers of Iowa’s electric cooperatives and posted on www.iaruralpower.org.

Examples of questions most relevant to our members are:

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

As the Congresswoman for Iowa’s First Congressional District, I’ve been fortunate to have a great working relationship with our REC’s in Iowa, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Knowing how important REC’s are to not only power Iowans homes and businesses but also broadband services, we frequently discuss upcoming legislation and regulations with REC’s to get their input and make sure it works for Iowa. We recently worked with Iowa’s REC’s to ensure they had what they needed to work toward recovery of power after the derecho and we hosted a webinar on the importance of rural broadband we were happy Iowa REC’s were able to participate in.

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

Iowa has offered affordable energy to help move our economy forward while recently leading the way in the development of homegrown and renewable energy and we should be proud of that. Iowa’s REC’s have been at the forefront of ensuring our rural areas have the power they need and I will continue working with them when considering legislation to make sure Iowa’s needs are met. Iowa’s REC’s play an important role in providing power and internet service and we must work together to ensure they can continue meeting those needs.

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?

As we look to increase our share of renewable energy and move toward more clean-burning sources of energy, we have to be cognizant of existing generation sources and ensure any transition protects consumers and we preserve and continue good-paying jobs for Iowans. When discussing development of new renewable energy projects, Iowa's REC's, farmers, businesses, and consumers must have a seat at the table and we must be recognized for the progress we've made. We should be investing in our infrastructure and R&D around new technologies to move our country forward.

- 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?**

The pandemic has taken a toll on every sector of Iowa's economy and has had far reaching and, sadly, deadly consequences. For our country and state to recover, we need to work together and across the aisle to get things done. I was proud to work with the REC's on HR 7483 and am a co-sponsor of this bipartisan legislation.

- 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?**

I made it a priority to join the Small Business Committee in Congress, and have been honored to serve as the Chair of the Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship Subcommittee. I made this a priority because I know firsthand from growing up in rural Iowa how important economic development efforts are for our small businesses and families. Iowa's REC's play a critical role in rural economic development and keeping our main streets growing. I look forward to working on a new bipartisan farm bill in the new Congress, and will prioritize continuation of REDLG so REC's can continue helping our rural communities flourish.

- 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 grew up in rural Iowa in a town with more cows than people and have immediate family that farm corn and soybeans. I see the needs of rural communities every day and know that we need to take a multifaceted approach to strengthen Iowa. One of the most important things we can do is to move forward a bipartisan infrastructure package that will prioritize rural areas, and help Iowa address our structurally deficient bridges that impact the critical shipping and transportation of food and goods we make here in Iowa.

I was proud to pass through the House an infrastructure package that was called one of the best bills of all time for rural america, and it included numerous bipartisan bills I introduced that would provide millions for rural bridges for example and passed bipartisan amendments to make biofuels eligible for millions in new grants. That package also prioritized broadband expansion, which is another critical issue for REC's, our main street businesses, and our farmers and families.

One of my first actions in Congress was to join the bipartisan House Biofuels Caucus, and I've worked with colleagues across the country for the past year to move important biofuels policy forward like the approval of E-15 sales year round and in pushing back against the Administration's Small Refinery Waivers that prioritize Big Oil over Iowa's homegrown fuels. In addition, I launched a bipartisan investigation by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) into the practice of granting these waivers.

In addition, I worked across the aisle to pass a historic five-year extension of the biodiesel tax credit. I'm proud to be endorsed by the Iowa Corn Growers Association and the US Chamber of Commerce, while also being recognized as a "Fueling Growth" champion by Growth Energy. I will continue fighting for Iowa's biofuels industry, and for the resources rural Iowa needs to continue being a great place to live and raise a family.

Please email candidate responses to Haley Moon (hmoon@iowarec.org).