



Ouachita Electric Cooperative Corporation

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Dear Senators:

Ouachita Electric Cooperative Corporation (OECC) is a non-profit rural electric utility cooperative headquartered in Camden in Ouachita County. The Cooperative was founded in 1939 and serves portions of five counties in the State of Arkansas. The cooperative serves approximately 7,000 members and 9,400 meters.

In 2017, Ouachita Electric Cooperative Corporation was awarded Cooperative of the Year by the Smart Electric Power Alliance. OECC has been recognized by Governor Hutchinson and ADEQ with the 2018 Energy Excellence Award for partnering with South Arkansas Telephone to merge solar energy and fiber optic internet. The initiative will provide every member with high speed fiber internet within the next few years. In 2019, Ouachita Electric Cooperative's energy efficiency program was recognized by ACEEE as one of the nation's exemplary programs.

OECC supports Senate Bill 145, without amendments sponsored by Senator Dave Wallace, which would allow greater access to low-cost solar energy. At OECC, we encourage solar development within our service territory. The use of solar generation has dramatically reduced our cost of power at peak times of use. The utility is the only entity that can capture the demand savings. These savings are passed along to all OECC members, solar and non-solar alike. By capturing the demand solar customers help all customers achieve lower overall power cost.

Solar truly is a win-win situation for all OECC members and the utility. On behalf of the OECC board of directors, I respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 145, and thank Senator Wallace for his leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Cayce
General Manager
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