Legislators help us look out for you

A NEW YEAR brings a new session of the S.C. General Assembly and, with it, a chance to thank our local legislators for their support of Horry Electric Cooperative.

The state senators and representatives shown on these pages deserve your thanks. They help HEC save our members money and continue to provide the most reliable service possible.

As the legislative liaison for HEC, I work with my peers from other independent, locally owned electric distribution co-ops around the state. We coordinate with the government relations team at The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., our statewide association, to look out for the more than 1.5 million South Carolina citizens who rely on their local co-ops for dependable, affordable electric power.

Legislative advocacy is crucial to your co-op’s continued success. Decisions by lawmakers in Columbia and in Washington, D.C., have major ramifications for your monthly bill. That’s why your cooperative keeps a close eye on the legislative, regulatory and legal issues of the entire utility industry.

2013 accomplishments

Our local legislative delegation continues to stand tall for HEC members. For instance, in recent years the General Assembly has passed legislation aimed at curbing the theft of copper, which has cost citizens, insurance companies, churches and utilities a great deal of money. In 2013, legislators, with input from co-ops and other utilities, went back and fine-tuned a law passed in 2012. We now have one of the toughest laws in the United States on the theft of copper.

In 2013 the Legislature also passed tougher laws regarding theft of utility service, particularly for those who steal power as part of larger criminal enterprises including operators of “grow houses,” where crooks circumvent electric metering to avoid paying for power used to grow marijuana indoors. Now these criminals face serious jail time if they try to stick other co-op members with the cost of their power.

Grassroots greatness

Co-ops have earned a reputation as the Legislature’s “go-to” advisors on energy-related matters by demonstrating our expertise in electricity, economic development and community empowerment. In the last year, we provided expert advice on legislation to update state energy-efficiency building codes, which will help new homeowners save energy and money. Today, we are doing the same to make sure our state policies in distributed generation like solar are reasonable and consumer friendly. We appreciate our legislators’ attentiveness to our members’ needs.

Legislators know co-ops well. They know that HEC and other locally owned and operated electric cooperatives have represented grassroots organizing at its finest for almost 75 years. Thanks again to our delegation and to our greatest advocates—you, our consumer-members.

Penelope Hinson
Manager of Public Relations, Marketing and Energy Management

South Carolina Senate

Senators are housed in the Gressette Building, Columbia. (H) Home district office (C) Columbia office
South Carolina House of Representatives
House member offices are in the Blatt Building, Columbia. (H) Home district office (C) Columbia office

Liston D. Barfield [R]
Dist. No. 58—Horry Co.
(H) PO Box 1734, Conway, 29528
(C) PO Box 11867, Columbia, 29211
Room 503A
Bus.: (803) 734-3107
Home: (803) 771-8711
Email: ListonBarfield@schouse.gov

Kevin Hardee [R]
Dist. No. 105—Horry Co.
(H) 2088 Cane Branch Rd., Loris, 29569
Home: (843) 455-3567
(C) PO Box 11867, Columbia, 29211
Room 434A
Bus.: (803) 212-6796
Email: KevinHardee@schouse.gov

Alan D. Clemmons [R]
Dist. No. 107—Horry Co.
(H) 1800-A North Oak St., Myrtle Beach, 29577
Bus.: (843) 448-4266
(C) PO Box 11867, Columbia, 29211
Room 519C
Bus.: (803) 734-3113
Email: AlanClemmons@schouse.gov

Nelson L. Hardwick [R]
Dist. No. 106—Horry Co.
(H) 714 Cedar Drive N., Surfside Beach, 29575
Bus.: (843) 238-1142
Home: (843) 238-8380
(C) PO Box 11867, Columbia, 29211
Room 411
Bus.: (803) 734-3022
Email: NelsonHardwick@schouse.gov

Heather Ammons Crawford [R]
Dist. No. 68—Horry Co.
(H) PO Box 31385, Myrtle Beach, 29588
(C) PO Box 11867, Columbia, 29211
Room 522A
Bus.: (803) 212-6933
Email: HeatherCrawford@schouse.gov

Mike Ryhal [R]
Dist. No. 56—Horry Co.
(H) 8328 Juxa Dr., Myrtle Beach, 29579
Home: (843) 655-2452
(C) PO Box 11867, Columbia, 29211
Room 404A
Bus.: (803) 212-6935
Email: MikeRyhal@schouse.gov

Tracy R. Edge [R]
Dist. No. 104—Horry Co.
(H) 1423 Edge Drive, Myrtle Beach, 29582
Bus.: (843) 448-5123
Home: (843) 361-2827
(C) PO Box 11867, Columbia, 29211
Room 503B
Bus.: (803) 734-3013
Email: TracyEdge@schouse.gov

How to use this guide
Each legislator’s name is followed by his or her district number and the counties he or she serves, along with contact information. All information is current as of Dec. 6, 2013, but is subject to change without notice.

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