

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays from the delegation

RM Question: *Please send your Christmas greeting to the members of Montana Electric Cooperatives. Then please share with them your top legislative priority for 2008.*



Representative Denny Rehberg

Happy Holidays! This year, we've already made some important steps in terms of securing a better future for our state.

In the House, we were able to pass a strong Farm Bill which included many important provisions for our state's rural communities. Now, we need to finalize this measure and bring these important programs back to our state.

We need to continue to

promote energy development by implementing the critical provisions already passed in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. By focusing on the key elements, such as the creation of new, innovative energy technology through grants and loans, the use of renewables and other alternative sources, and the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation, we're already making strides toward eliminating dependence on foreign oil.

We must work to find a comprehensive solution to immigration reform. This solution should emphasize border security first. We can't fix problems inside our borders until we fix the problems on our borders.

I'll continue to bolster the quality of life for Montana families.

Again, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to working with you in 2008.



Senator Max Baucus

Happy Holidays! It seems like just yesterday that I was sitting down to write last year's holiday greeting to all of you and here we are, at the end of another year.

I want to make sure that you and your customers are treated fairly in the new climate change bill.

I inserted a provision to make sure that Montanans don't have to see a rate hike

on their energy bills and that will help co-ops deal with the new cap and trade system. My provision sets up a pilot program in Montana that sets aside allowances (funds) for rural electric cooperatives in the state to fully mitigate any rate increase to Montana rate payers. These allowances will cover the cost of compliance for all the rural electric cooperatives in the state.

My top priorities are to create more good-paying

jobs, to help boost our state's economy; help ensure that all Montanans have access to quality, affordable health care; boost domestic energy production so we can lessen our dependence on foreign oil and energy sources; implement the new Farm Bill so that it will help Montana producers and open new markets for Montana's world-class agriculture products.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.



Senator Jon Tester

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! What a year!

This year we were able to pass the most sweeping ethics reform since Watergate, and we passed a long overdue increase in the federal minimum wage. We wrote an energy bill that will put Montana and Montana's family farms and ranches at the forefront of our energy future. The Senate has placed

a serious investment in the health care of our wounded soldiers and veterans. We took recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and turned them into law, making America safer. And we passed legislation that is going to make higher education more affordable for more Montana families.

In 2008 I will continue with the work that we have under way. As a member of the Senate Energy

Committee, I'm fighting for programs that will allow farm and ranch country to take the lead in the production of biofuels, wind and geothermal energy.

From my spot on the Veterans Affairs Committee I will continue to advocate for Montana's 108,000 veterans. Everyone who served this country was guaranteed access to quality, affordable health care, and we must live up to that promise.