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Rural Montana

National Winner; Award of Excellence

2005 Best Statewide Magazine, Spotlight on Excellence contest, NRECA Council of Rural Electric Communicators.

Vol. 54, No. 6, June 07 (ISSN0199-6401)

Rural Montana is an official publication of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association and is published monthly by Montana's rural electric and telephone cooperatives in the interest of better rural and urban understanding of the benefits and the problems of rural utilities.

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Design/Layout: Sherri Carl, MECA.

Printer: River's Edge Printing
Great Falls, Montana

Change of Address: Mail change of address to your local rural electric cooperative or the Rural Montana office, P.O. Box 3469, Great Falls, MT 59403. Please include the mailing label from your most recent issue of Rural Montana.

Subscriptions: \$6.75 per year.

Postmaster: Published monthly by Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, 501 Bay Drive, Great Falls, Montana. Periodicals postage paid at Great Falls, Montana. Postmaster send address corrections to P.O. Box 3469, Great Falls, MT 59403.

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VIEWPOINT

Dave Wheelihan



Dave Wheelihan

Thanks to you and D.C. delegation for all the feedback

This month's Rural Montana will feature comments about last month's magazine articles on climate change, will explore the wind power issue and will look at the results of the recent electric cooperative legislative conference in D.C.

It is our hope to continue the education process and spark debate on how best to address policy decisions on greenhouse gas emissions. We thank our readers for their feedback on all these energy issues.

At the recent National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's legislative conference, about 40 rural electric cooperative leaders from Montana joined more than 3,000 of their coun-

terparts from around the country to deliver information to Congress on climate change, Rural Utilities Services funding, clean renewable energy bonds, captive shippers and power marketing administrations.

We were encouraged to find a great deal of support for the rural electric cooperative program and a recognition of the need to make policy decisions on climate change consistent with available and emerging technologies.

We told members of Congress that a measured approach that considers investments in research and development would be a good starting point.

These will be an opportunity to address the issue more thoroughly during the upcoming debate. So

the opportunity to get our information before the Congress at the legislative conference was very timely.

You will also see in this issue of Rural Montana that we have asked our Montana congressional delegation to evaluate our performance in presenting our issues during our recent visits to their offices. You can see the results in the Dateline, D.C. section of the magazine.

The months and years ahead will provide incredible challenges to our country as a whole on the issue of climate change.

We remain optimistic that the issue can be addressed in a manner that will ultimately benefit all of us.

Dave Wheelihan is CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

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