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Rural Montana

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Managing Editor: David Wheelihan

Communications Director, Editor: James V. Smith, Jr.

Offices: 501 Bay Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404

Telephone: (406) 761-8333 — Fax: 761-8339

Website: www.mtco-ops.com E-mail: rural@sofast.net

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VIEWPOINT

Dave Wheelihan



Thumbs up to Youth Tour youth

As you can see from this month's *Rural Montana*, we have once again given Montana youth a chance to talk about the electric cooperative sponsored tour of our nation's capital and what they learned about our government and its history.

This Youth to Washington tour has grown rapidly in the past few years, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association tells us that it is the second largest gathering they host in Washington, D.C., right behind the annual legislative conference.

When these high school students have completed their trip to Washington, D.C., we ask them to fill out a comprehensive survey so we can gauge the value of the different events they participate in. We also give them opportunity to comment on the various

aspects of the trip. We have been consistently amazed at the depth, wisdom and insight of these students. It is comforting to know our country will be in good hands when the torch is passed.

With October being cooperative month, these young cooperative leaders certainly exemplify the best of a great program.

You will also see in this month's *Rural Montana* the completion of our candidate profiles. We hope these profiles help you in determining who you will vote for in November.

Our nation faces considerable challenges now and into the future, and the leadership we choose will play an important role in shaping the outcome. Be sure to do your homework, as have our youth who went to Washington, D.C., and be sure to get out and vote.

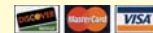
Dave Wheelihan is CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

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