



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 2750, Durango, CO 81302-2750
Phone: (970) 247-5786 • Fax (970) 247-2674

April 20, 2009

Dear LPEA Member:

The La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors asks that you take the time to read the enclosed one page discussion regarding draft legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, which could result in significant increases to your electric rates.

Regardless of your political views or opinion on climate change, we believe that you will want to be informed and participate in the decisions that Congress is making on this vital issue.

We will continue to keep links to updated information on this legislation on our website, www.lpea.coop.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Patton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pam Patton
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg W. Munro". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Greg W. Munro
Chief Executive Officer

As Congress returns from its spring break, the American Clean Energy & Security Act of 2009 is going to be introduced. This comprehensive legislation is intended to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and will establish a green house gas reduction program.

Currently, the draft legislation envisions a “cap and trade” scheme to regulate and reduce carbon emissions. Cap and trade (or emission trading) is an administrative approach used to control pollution by providing economic incentives for achieving reductions in the emissions of pollutants. The other method of legislative regulation is a direct carbon tax. Both have advantages and disadvantages. Both will cause increases, possibly very significant increases, to electric rates. The question is how high will rates go and will the plan work to improve the environment without crippling the economy.

Electricity is the underlying energy source for almost every aspect of our economy; ballooning costs would negatively affect all our lives. Every month more than 1,000 LPEA members already have great difficulty staying current on their bill. For the benefit of our members as well as for the health of our economy, LPEA remains committed to keeping costs under tight control.

LPEA, at this early point in the legislative process, does not know how electric rates will ultimately be effected but the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that cap and trade will increase energy costs for individual households between \$700 and \$2200 annually. President Obama’s budget anticipates splitting anticipated revenues of \$646 billion over ten years between clean energy investment, tax credits, tax cuts, and reducing the fiscal deficit.

Reportedly, some in Congress want to use the revenues from this energy tax to pay for other important national initiatives like health care. LPEA believes that all the money generated should support conservation & efficiency programs and promote technologies that answer our needs for renewable energy, clean coal, carbon capture, and other new sources of reliable power.

LPEA asks you to consider contacting your federal legislators and let them know that, in regulating CO₂, the final legislation should be clear and tell American citizens how much electric rates will go up along with how and where the money will be spent. For example, how much will be spent on technical solutions along with research and development activities? LPEA has provided language on the reverse side of this page as a model for contacting your two senators and congressman. It is available under www.lpea.coop if you would like to copy and paste to your letter.

I _____ residing at:
Name

Street Address, City, State & Zip Code

I am contacting you as a member of La Plata Electric Association, Inc., a rural electric cooperative based in Durango and Pagosa Springs, Colorado. It is my understanding that Congress is considering a new national energy policy that will promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and will establish a green house gas reduction program. I also understand that this legislation may result in increases in electric rates. I ask you to:

- be transparent in your actions as you craft legislation so that every American citizen understands the language along with how and where the money will be spent. For example, how much will be spent on technical solutions along with research and development activities?
- inform me directly how much you project my electric rates will rise with either a cap and trade formula or a carbon tax.
- ensure this legislation recognizes that CO₂ is not confined to US borders and is not produced exclusively by the electric utility industry. CO₂ legislation has to incorporate solutions for CO₂ producers outside the electric industry as well as internationally.

Finally,

Signed _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Colorado Legislators Contact Information

Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) Website: markudall.senate.gov	317 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0605	Phone: (202) 224-5941 Fax: (202) 224-6471
	8601 Turnpike Drive, Suite 206 Westminster, Colorado 80031	Phone: (303) 650-7820 Fax: (303) 650-7827
Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) Website: bennet.senate.gov	702 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0605	Phone: (202) 224-5852 Fax: (202) 228-5036
	835 East 2nd Avenue, Suite 203 Durango, Colorado 81301	Phone: (970) 259-1710 Fax: (970) 259-9780
Representative John Salazar (D-CO) Website: www.house.gov/salazar	326 Cannon House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515-0603	Phone: (202) 225-4761 Fax: (202) 226-9669
	813 Main Avenue, Suite 300 Durango, Colorado 81301	Phone: (970) 259-1012 Fax: (970) 259-9467