



E-MAILED ONLY

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Bobby Rush
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 4447, the Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act of 2019 (the Ease Act)

Dear Chairman Rush and Ranking Member Upton:

The Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association (GCSECA) is a membership organization consisting of six electric distribution and Arizona Generation and Transmission Cooperatives who collectively serve approximately 420,000 rural residents across 12 counties in Arizona. GCSECA's member cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are owned and governed by the people they serve. Affordable electricity is the lifeblood of the American economy, and for 75 years electric Cooperatives have been proud to keep the lights on.

I write in support of H.R.4447, the Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act of 2019 (EASE Act). Under the EASE Act, rural electric cooperatives will be eligible to receive grants to identify, evaluate and design energy storage projects. These grants may fund feasibility studies, detailed engineering of projects, and integration planning. Co-ops will also receive technical assistance from DOE and experts in the field. In exchange, participating Co-ops will spread the message to other Co-ops, showcasing how these projects were implemented, how barriers were overcome and what potential cost savings were achieved.

While many electric cooperatives have deployed some degree of energy storage, there are still financial, technical and logistical hurdles to its expansion. These grants will help Co-ops experiment with the technologies and create workable business models. Energy storage can help overcome difficult technical problems caused by fast fluctuation of energy delivered to the grid from renewable sources. Successfully implementing these technologies may allow Co-ops to purchase power at non-peak times at a considerable reduction in cost and have the power available for their communities at peak time.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Arizona's rural electric Cooperatives.

Very truly yours,


Dave Lock

Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Tom O'Halleran