# Volts&Joits



Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

## **MEMBER MEETINGS**

District meetings for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be held at three locations within the cooperative's service territory. Meetings will be held within District 1, 4 and 5. The meetings are held to inform attendees on current issues and programs associated with the cooperative. Official business will be conducted at the three district meetings, which will include the election of a director candidate. Even though a meeting may not be scheduled within the district in which you reside, you are welcome to attend a meeting of your choice. Anyone requiring special access or assistance at any one of the meeting sites should call Red Lake Electric in advance so arrangements can be made. Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served at each meeting.

Russia	Onstad	Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.						
Fairfax	Kertsonville  District 1	Tilden	Grove Park Mentor	Badger	Lessor	Hill River		
Crookston Crookston	Gentilly  Gentilly	Lake Pleasant	Terrebonne	Poplar River  Brooks	Lambert	Chester		
		RLF	District 6	Plummer	Oklee	District 4		
Parnell	Wylie Louisville	Browns Creek Red Lake Falls	River Gervais	Emardville	Garnes	Equality	Johnson	Ī
Belgium	Polk Centre	Black River	River Falls	Wyandotte	Mayfield	Deerpark	Hickory	ĺ
	District 9		District 8			District 7		
	Bray	Sanders	Rocksbury	Smiley	Kratka	Highlanding	Star	- ;
	Numedal	Norden	North  TRF	Silverton District 5	Cloverleaf	Goodridge	Reiner	F
								1
	Viking ●							
	Viking	New Solum	Excel	Agder	Grand Plain	Moylan	Espelie	T
		District 3	● Holt	District 2				
Foldahl	Marsh Grove	New Folden	Holt	East Valley	Mud Lake	Eckvold	Valley	1
			M. River					
	West Valley	New Maine	Spruce Valley	Cedar	Whiteford			

### DISTRICT 1

**Bonnie Christians** 

Tues., Feb. 7 | 1:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Catholic Church Gentilly

#### DISTRICT 4

Steve Linder

Tues., Feb. 7 | 7:00 p.m.

Oklee Community Hall Oklee

**NEW DIRECTOR NEEDED** – Linder not seeking reelection

#### **DISTRICT 5**

Mark Hanson

Mon., Feb. 6 | 7:00 p.m.

**Community Church** Thief River Falls

#### DIRECTOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members in District 1, 4 and 5 will soon elect directors to represent them. The initial elections will take place at the upcoming district meetings. Final election will occur at the cooperative's annual meeting March 29 if there is more than one nominee. District 1, 4 and 5 are currently represented by Bonnie Christians, Steve Linder and Mark Hanson, respectively. Directors must be members residing in the district they represent and have no conflicts of interest regarding Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Any candidate for director must have his or her name stated as the "member" on the cooperative's records. For more information on director qualifications and responsibilities, contact Stephanie Johnson, General Manager, at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

#### **RETAIL RATES TO INCREASE ON APRIL 1, 2023**

Red Lake Electric's board of directors recently approved a retail rate increase.

Please refer to page 3.

#### REC Voits Joits

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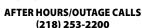
#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Stacy Blawat
Vice President Peter Mosbeck
Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hanson
Directors Cecil Anderson,
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,
Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Randy Versdahl
Stephanie Johnson General Manager
Steve Conely Manager of Electric
System Operations
Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168 Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068 Fax: (218) 253-2630



Website: www.redlakeelectric.com Email: <u>info@redlakeelectric.com</u>

> CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-252-1166 or 811

### MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:

Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758

Red Lake and Polk Counties

#### Todd Knaack – 763-516-0344

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



# Get Involved! Join us at the Annual Meeting

by Stephanie Johnson

ne of my favorite events is coming up on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, when Red Lake Electric Cooperative will host our annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event (29639 Lacey N Bren) because it's a great opportunity for me and our employees to talk with our members and hear what's on their minds. We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting, which will take place at the Legacy Event Center, located in Thief River Falls.

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community's energy future is so important to us. In fact, it's essential because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community. As I'm sure you know, the energy industry is in the midst of massive change. Consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy to local homes, schools and businesses.

As we navigate major changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all Red Lake Electric members.

#### You have a say

You may be wondering if your opinion really makes a difference, and yes, it does! Gaining guidance and perspective from our members and board helps set priorities for the cooperative and guide future decisions. At our annual meeting, we raise

issues for voting consideration by the general membership (that's everyone who pays for electric service from Red Lake Electric).

Annual meeting is also a time for members to vote on the cooperative's board of directors. Our board of directors is comprised of members who live and work right here in our local service area, so they are in the best position to know where community investments are most needed. And by the way, we hope you'll consider (25990 Keith Leines) running for the board in the future – we're always looking for folks who care about our community who would be willing to serve.

# Your electric bill is an investment in our community

This local input means those closest to the community know its needs and priorities and help direct where co-ops dollars are spent. Every year, we invest funds to make updates to our local system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: Every time you pay your electric bill, you're actually investing in your community because all the money we take in stays here in the local community. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

Most consumers likely don't equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But Red Lake Electric is not an ordinary utility company.

We're a cooperative, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community (32162 Travis E Spencer) in which it operates.

Our core purpose and mission are to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. But as a cooperative, we are also motivated by service to our community, rather than profits. We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting on March 29. We look forward to seeing you!

#### Rate increase

Red Lake Electric's board of directors recently approved a retail rate increase. This rate increase will begin with April's usage, which you will see on the bill you receive in May. The decision was made to increase the facility charge by \$5, incorporate the MPC Renewable Surcharge into the energy rate and no longer have a seasonal energy rate. Going forward, the energy rate will be \$0.11 year-round (please see retail rate change chart). We have placed more emphasis on fixed charges as Minnkota did in April 2021, with its introduction of a Base Demand charge on all energy on the wholesale side.

We are hopeful this rate increase will help us sustain a healthier operating margin. These margins (26890 Dale R Bentow) will be used to pay our continuingly increasing material expenses throughout 2023. The value of those margins, after we close the books in 2023, will then be allocated back to you, the member, in the form of capital credits.

# Retail Rate Change

Effective April 1, 2023 (May 2023 Bill)

Rate 1, General Service	Cur	rent Rate	N	ew Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge				
1.5 - 10 kVA Transformer	\$	35.00	\$	40.00
11 - 25 kVA Transformer	\$	38.00	\$	43.00
26 - 75 kVA Transformer	\$	43.00	\$	48.00
All kilowatt-hours (Dec-Feb)	\$	0.106	\$	0.110
All kilowatt-hours (Mar-Nov)	\$	0.102	\$	0.110
Multiphase Surcharge	\$	22.00		No Change

Rate 2, On-Peak Service, over 75 kVA Transformer		Current Rate		New Rate	
Monthly Facilities Charge	\$	59.00	\$	64.00	
All kilowatt-hours	\$	0.065	\$	0.068	
Demand Charge per kW (Dec-Feb)	\$	16.00		No Change	
Demand Charge per kW (Mar-Nov)	\$	11.00		No Change	

Rate 3, Seasonal Service over 75 kVA Transformer		Current Rate		New Rate	
Monthly Facilities Charge	\$	0.70		No Change	
All kilowatt-hours (Dec-Feb)	\$	0.106	\$	0.110	
All kilowatt-hours (Mar-Nov)	\$	0.102	\$	0.110	
Multiphase Surcharge	\$	22.00		No Change	

Rate 4, Interruptible Service over 25 kVA Transformer		Current Rate		New Rate	
Monthly Facilities Charge	\$	59.00	\$	64.00	
All kilowatt-hours	\$	0.065	\$	0.068	
Multiphase Surcharge	\$	22.00		No Change	

Off-Peak Heating Rates		rent Rate	New Rate		
Monthly Off-Peak Equipment Charge	\$	5.75	No Change		
Short Term Control per kWh	\$	0.079	No Change		
Long Term Control per kWh	\$	0.056	No Change		

Security Lighting Service	Curi	rent Rate	New Rate		
Metered Security Lighting	\$	7.00	No Change		
Unmeter Security Lighting	\$	8.00	No Change		

Standyby Service (retain deenergized service only)	Current Rate		New Rate	
Monthly Charge	\$	13.00	No Change	

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# NEW YEAR, NEW ENERGY **EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2023**

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient (30185 Carrie E Genereux) with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

#### **Electric Heating Rebates** Must be on off-peak

#### **Electric plenum heaters**

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity - at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

#### **Electric thermal storage heaters**

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$75 per kW

#### Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton 17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$600 per ton

#### **Geothermal heat pumps**

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton

#### **Electric underfloor boiler**

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers heat consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$75 per kW

#### Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$25 per kW

#### **Electric Water Heater Rebates** *Must be on off-peak*

100 gallon or greater

\$500/unit

56-99 gallon

\$400/unit

55 gallon or less

\$150/unit

Bonus rebates: 🗸

Add \$250 if converting from natural gas or propane.

Add \$100 for new building construction (shops, cabins, etc.).

New construction (50 gallon)

FREE unit (primary residence only)

**Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates** 240V Level 2 Charger Must be on off-peak



Electric vehicle or hybrid

Residential

Commercial - Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW

100% rebate

Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program.

Contact Member Services for more details!

218-253-2168

## Minnesota's 100% carbon-free energy proposal doesn't make sense for Red Lake Electric Cooperative members

Policymakers in Minnesota are pursuing a potentially dangerous proposal that would mandate all electricity sold in the state be produced by carbon-free resources by 2040.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has a long history of environmental stewardship and supports efforts to lower carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. However, a mandate that requires radical transformation of our electricity system (20894 Gerald Duray) has the strong likelihood of creating power reliability challenges and rate affordability issues.

The complexity and difficulty in achieving a carbon-free electric grid cannot be understated. No single technology, power source or approach will be sufficient on its own. It will take an all-of-the-above strategy and many technological breakthroughs occurring rapidly in the coming years.

Here are five things to consider about Minnesota's 100% carbonfree energy proposal.

1 You – our members – are better positioned to make decisions for **Red Lake Electric Cooperative** than legislators in St. Paul.

As a member-owner, you have a voice in how your cooperative operates and the decisions that are made through the board of directors you elect. This board is made up of local people who are friends and neighbors in your community - not Twin Cities legislators. Local decision-making is vitally important to ensure you receive reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity. What might work in Minneapolis may not be right for our region.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's power supply mix already includes significant renewable resources and work is being done to further decarbonize.

Approximately 42% of the power generation capacity provided to our members is generated by carbon-free resources, including wind (34%) and hydro (8%). Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, is also evaluating Project Tundra, which would equip a North Dakota power plant with one of the largest carbon capture systems in the world. If the project moves forward (a decision is anticipated within the next year) Minnkota would be one of the fastest decarbonizing utilities in the U.S.

### Electric grid reliability is at risk.

Rolling blackouts have taken place in other parts of the country, including Texas and California. Minnesota is not immune to these challenges and the lack of reliable resources could exacerbate an already strained grid. Grid regulators, including the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), anticipate significant electricity shortfalls over the next 10 years as coal, nuclear and natural gas generation retire faster than replacement resources are connected. This has the potential to create grid reliability issues and more frequent outage events.

Wind, solar and batteries are currently incapable of meeting the 24/7 demand for electricity.

While wind and solar resources provide zero-emissions energy, they are also limited by the fact that they cannot operate on a

frequent enough basis to stabilize the electric grid by themselves. Backup resources are still needed for when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. While many are optimistic about the future of battery storage technology, it is still in its infancy at grid scale. Large battery banks can currently only dispatch energy into the grid for a few hours at a time, when multiple days of backup power can be needed.

#### Extreme cold weather in our region creates challenges.

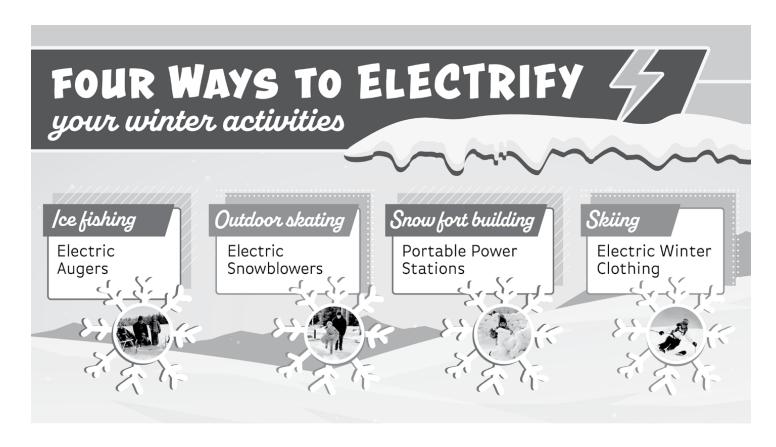
Minnesota's electricity resources need to be prepared for both 110-degree summer days and 40-below-zero winter nights. Extreme cold temperatures create specific challenges due to the dramatic increase in electricity usage and the lack of production from wind and solar facilities, which are prone to shutdown in 20-below-zero conditions. Resilient resources, like coal and nuclear, are still required to meet electricity demand during these volatile weather events.

#### What can I do?

Contact your state representatives and senators (visit gis.lcc.mn.gov/ iMaps/districts/ to find out who represents you) and encourage them to prioritize electric reliability and affordability when considering energy-related proposals. The 100% carbon-free energy by 2040 proposal is virtually impossible to meet with existing technology (29999 Blake A Peterson). If mistakes are made as the energy transition continues forward, they will be extraordinarily difficult to reverse. Instead of implementing burdensome mandates, the state should develop ways to help utilities access new clean energy funding available in the federal Inflation Reduction Act.

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

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#### **NOTICE TO MEMBERS**

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Red Lake Falls, as an operating electric utility in the state of Minnesota, is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers.

The cooperative will provide information relating to the said interconnections to all interested member-consumers of the cooperative free of charge upon request.

Any disputes between the cooperative and its member-consumers over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Red Lake Electric Board of Directors.

#### **NOTICE OF NAMES**

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

# Red Lake Electric Cooperative Director qualification requirements

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Is not a member of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected.
- Within three years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative.
- Is or becomes, or at any time during the three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been employed by a labor union, which represents or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.
- Is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of any employee of the Cooperative.
- Is a person who is a parent, spouse, or cohabitant of an incumbent director who is not up for re-election at that time.
- Is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business.
- Is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director.

# STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Form, found online at http://www.ascr. usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust. **html** or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

## **Director nomination and election procedure**

The procedure for which directors can be nominated and elected for Red Lake Electric Cooperative is outlined in Article II, Section 10, of the Cooperative's Bylaws. That section reads as follows:

#### SECTION 10. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

(a) Nomination at District Meetings. Not less than forty days nor more than sixty days before any meeting at which directors are to be elected, the board of directors shall call a separate meeting of the members of each district from which directors are to be elected, at a suitable place in such district for the purpose of selecting a candidate for director to represent the members located within such district. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district as provided in Section 2 of this Article and shall indicate the district to which such member belongs. The notice shall state that nominations for a director are to be made at the meeting. The district meeting shall be called to order by the director representing the district or by another designated representative of the board of directors, or in his absence, by any members residing in the district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard, but shall have no vote. Nominations for candidates for director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming.

Candidates must be members residing in the district and must possess the qualifications for director specified in Section 2 of Article III of these bylaws. Voting shall be by ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any district meeting. Each member may vote for one candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the official candidate of the district. In case of a tie, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. The minutes of the district meeting shall set forth, among other matter, the name of each person nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each and shall specify the official candidate of the district. A certified copy of the minutes signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the district meeting shall be delivered to the secretary of the Cooperative at the following meeting of the board.

- (b) Nomination of Directors by Petition. Nomination for director can also be made by petition. Fifteen (15) or more members may make a nomination in writing to the Secretary over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. This petition nomination must be in the format prescribed by the Secretary. Blank nomination petitions shall be available to all members at the Cooperative office. All petition nominees shall be listed in the notice of annual meeting and their names shall be printed on the election ballot.
- (c) Election of Directors. At the annual meeting, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates of each district. Election of directors shall be by printed ballot, separate ballots to be provided for each district, listing the candidates in alphabetical order. Only members of a district shall be entitled to vote for director to be elected from that district, and each member or member's spouse shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from the district in which he is a member. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at this meeting shall be declared elected as director. In the case of a tie vote, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.
- (d) Voting by Mail for Directors. The members shall be entitled to vote by mail for directors at annual and special meetings as provided in this section. Each member shall be mailed a director election ballot in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors with the notice of the annual or special meeting. A member who will be absent from the meeting may vote by mail for directors by marking the ballot for the candidate of the member's choice. The member shall return the ballot personally or by mail to the Cooperative in a sealed plain envelope inside another envelope bearing the member's name. If the ballot of the member is received by the Cooperative on or before the date of the annual or special meeting, the ballot shall be accepted and counted as the vote of the absent member.

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# YOUR CO-OP. YOUR VOICE.

The Minnesota legislative session began in January and Red Lake Electric Cooperative has been active in advocating for public policy that preserves reliable (26478 Kenton L Freberg) and affordable energy in our region. There are many new faces in the legislature this year, and it's important that lawmakers know the important role electric cooperatives play in their local communities. Legislative changes can have significant impacts on our operations and can increase costs to our members.

Electric cooperatives have been successful in the past through grassroots advocacy, where directors, managers, employees and member-owners take an active role (31786 Paula J Buren) in the political process to protect their co-op from harmful legislation and regulation, as well as to promote the value of co-op ownership to their legislators.

Here are the legislators who represent Red Lake Electric Cooperative members in St. Paul and Washington, D.C.

# YOUR COOPERATIVE'S LEGISLATORS









#### **FEDERAL LEGISLATORS**

President Joe Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20500 www.whitehouse.gov 202-456-1111

Senator Amy Klobuchar 425 Dirksen Senate Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510 www.klobuchar.senate.gov 202-224-3244; Fax: 202-228-2186

Senator Tina Smith 720 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510 www.smith.senate.gov 202-224-5641

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, U.S. House (7th District) 1004 Longworth House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 fischbach.house.gov 202-225-2165; Fax: 202-225-1593 Congressman Pete Stauber, U.S. House (8th District) 145 Cannon House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 stauber.house.gov 202-225-6211

#### **MN STATE LEGISLATORS**

Governor Tim Walz 130 State Capitol 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155 651-201-3400

Minority Leader-Elect Senator Mark Johnson (01, R) 2401 Minnesota Senate Bldg. St. Paul, MN 55155 sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn 651-296-5782

Senator Steve Green (02, R) 2319 Minnesota Senate Bldg. St. Paul, MN 55155 sen.steve.green@senate.mn 651-297-8063 Representative John Burkel (01A, R) 309 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 rep.john.burkel@house.mn.gov 651-296-9635

Representative Debra Kiel (01B, R) 203 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 rep.deb.kiel@house.mn.gov 651-296-5091

Representative Matt Grossell (02A, R) 371 State Office Bldg. St. Paul, MN 55155 rep.matt.grossell@house.mn.gov 651-296-4265