

The IREA Board has approved a resolution opposing legislation that would regulate Rural Electric Associations director elections at great cost and which contains unnecessary and damaging provisions. The Board of Directors, with the exception of Mike Kempe, Director of District #1, who voted against the resolution, approved the following resolution regarding HB 10-1098.

BOARD RESOLUTION

Whereas, advocates of high cost solar and wind power and of raising electric rates to force conservation have been unsuccessful in getting their allies elected to the boards of rural electric cooperatives; and

Whereas, because candidates supported by those advocates were defeated in the most recent IREA elections by 10, 28 and 36 percentage points, they now have turned to the legislature for help in getting their allies elected; and

Whereas, House Bill 10-1098 now has been introduced regarding rural electric cooperative elections and contains unnecessary, costly and damaging provisions; and

Whereas, among other harmful and unnecessary requirements the bill would prevent the board from taking any action that “could reasonably be construed” as “promoting, advancing or criticizing the stated positions of any candidate” within two months of a board election; would prohibit board newsletters during that time; and would require that a third party conduct board elections at a significant cost to members; and

Whereas, the bill would deprive members of information from the board on matters of concern; would hinder or bar board action on any matter concerning which a candidate takes a position, regardless of the matter’s importance or urgency; would foster uncertainty regarding the outcome of elections; and would result in needless expenditures; and

Whereas, the Association’s employees have successfully and efficiently handled all previous director elections without so much as an allegation of error or impropriety, all elections have been conducted openly and fairly, and the proponents of the bill have conceded as much;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that IREA strongly oppose the enactment of HB-1098.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the management of the Association seek the assistance of IREA members in opposing the legislation.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS!

The text of the board resolution is posted on our web site at www.intermountain-rea.com. Please contact your Colorado state legislators to recommend that they defeat this costly and unnecessary bill.

To find contact information for your State Representative, click on this link to a [map of Colorado State house districts](#). Click on “Find/Change Location,” enter your address and click the “Find” button. This will give you your district number. Then you must go to the [General Assembly directory](#) and look up the contact info for the Representative of your district. The Bill’s Sponsor is Claire Levy (D-Boulder).

To find contact information for your State Senator, click on this link to the [map of Colorado State Senate districts](#). Click on “Find/Change Location,” enter your address and click the “Find” button. This will give you your Senate district number. Then you go back to the [General Assembly directory](#) and look up the contact info for the Senator representing your district.