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# HOUSE BILL 10-1098 (THE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES' ELECTION BILL) STRIPPED OF UNNECESSARY, COSTLY AND DAMAGING PROVISIONS

We appreciated all of your phone calls, emails and letters to the legislature opposing the legislation. Although we were not able to kill the bill outright, the most onerous provisions were removed. Over 90% of what remains was already included in our Bylaws, on our web site, or in our Operating Procedures. The two most damaging and costly provisions in the original bill (since removed) were the inability of the Board of Directors to discuss its business with members months before the Annual Meeting, and the cost of conducting the entire election process by a third party. Our first contact with a company that would conduct the election quoted a cost of \$130,000. It was for these reasons that the Board of Directors (with the exception of Mike Kempe, Director District #1) opposed the legislation.

The legislation was proposed by an unsuccessful IREA Board candidate and the bill was introduced by Rep. Claire Levy, D-Boulder. One writer supporting the bill stated that the bill was introduced due to “dissatisfaction by some members, **politicians and environmentalists** with how certain co-ops conduct board elections.” The bill’s supporters, who admitted there has never been evidence of a cooperative election impropriety, were hoping that this legislation would give an advantage to proponents of rebates, energy taxes and other environmental policies that would inevitably lead to higher electric rates. Those policies have been rejected by at least three quarters of the Association’s members who believe the board should stay focused on low electric rates instead of implementing social policies.

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