



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Electric co-ops advocate for affordable and reliable power as Iowa's 2025 Legislative Session begins

Nearly 170 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives, including Corn Belt Power, traveled to downtown Des Moines January 14 to attend an annual Welcome Back Reception at the start of the 91st General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature. At the event, co-op advocates were able to discuss concerns and priorities face-to-face with state legislators. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

“Meeting with legislators is essential to ensuring our voices are heard and our concerns are understood,” said Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations, Corn Belt Power. “We deeply appreciate the time they dedicate to listening and engaging with us—it’s through these conversations that meaningful progress can be made.”

Representatives from Iowa’s locally owned electric cooperatives covered several important issues that could impact the affordability and reliability of electricity for the members and communities we serve.



Sharing the Cooperative Message

Above | Calhoun County Electric Cooperative directors Jim Miller and Steve Pelz meet with Representatives Mike Sexton and Ann Meyer and Senator Tim Kraayenbrink at January’s Welcome Back Reception Jan. 14.

Our top legislative priority this session is

“Meeting with legislators is essential to ensuring our voices are heard and our concerns are understood.”

- Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations

protecting the state’s defined electric service territories. In Iowa, your location determines

which electric utility will serve your home, farm or business. For almost 50 years, these defined electric service areas have provided certainty to electric cooperatives as we work to maintain affordable rates, foster a resilient electric grid and invest in economic development throughout rural Iowa. We strongly oppose any efforts to change or amend the service territory law. Learn more at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com.

In the coming months, Iowa’s 91st General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa’s rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power lives and empower communities. We’ll have another opportunity to advocate for our members and communities at our annual Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Day on the Hill event on March 19. Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.IARuralPower.org. ■



Welcome Back Reception

Above | Franklin County REC representatives meet with legislators including Rep. Shannon Latham, center, during IAEC’s Welcome Back Reception Jan. 14.

Protecting electric service territory is our top 2025 legislative priority

By Ethan Hohenadel, director of policy & advocacy for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the start of a new year also means the start of a new legislative session as we advocate for our member cooperatives and the member-consumers they serve.

Iowa's 91st General Assembly began January 13 and our policy and advocacy team is already hard at work. Protecting electric service territory is our top legislative priority this session.

In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve your home, farm or business under the defined electric service territory law. For almost 50 years, these electric service areas have benefited electric co-op member-consumers as the law provides certainty to electric cooperatives so we can safeguard affordable rates, support a resilient electric grid and invest in economic development.



Ethan Hohenadel

Service territory changes jeopardize economic development

Weakening Iowa's electric service territory law jeopardizes electric cooperatives' investments in rural economic development, which would negatively impact the communities we serve.

For the 5 years ending in 2022, Iowa electric co-ops had an impressive \$4.7 billion impact in economic development projects. These investments supported more than 7,300 Iowa jobs (retained, attracted or expanded) during that same time period.

In 2023 alone, Iowa electric co-ops secured more than \$41 million in federal economic development funds, resulting in more than \$111 million of new capital investment in the state.

Decades of robust economic development efforts from electric cooperatives have improved quality of life throughout rural Iowa through local job creation, providing needed services and adding valuable tax revenue. Without

electric service territory protections, these rural economic development efforts will be severely diminished.

Reduced electric service territory protections will increase rates

The realities of eroding electric service territory protections are sobering. In other states where service territories have been eliminated, consumers have experienced

higher electric rates and decreased reliability.

According to a 2023 New York Times investigation, electric rates have increased in deregulated states.

The report concludes, "Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/fees in every state where it has been introduced." And, "On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay **\$40 more per month for electricity...**" Referencing

an American Public Power Association 2021 report, "The average electric rate is **28% higher in deregulated states**, as compared to traditionally regulated states."

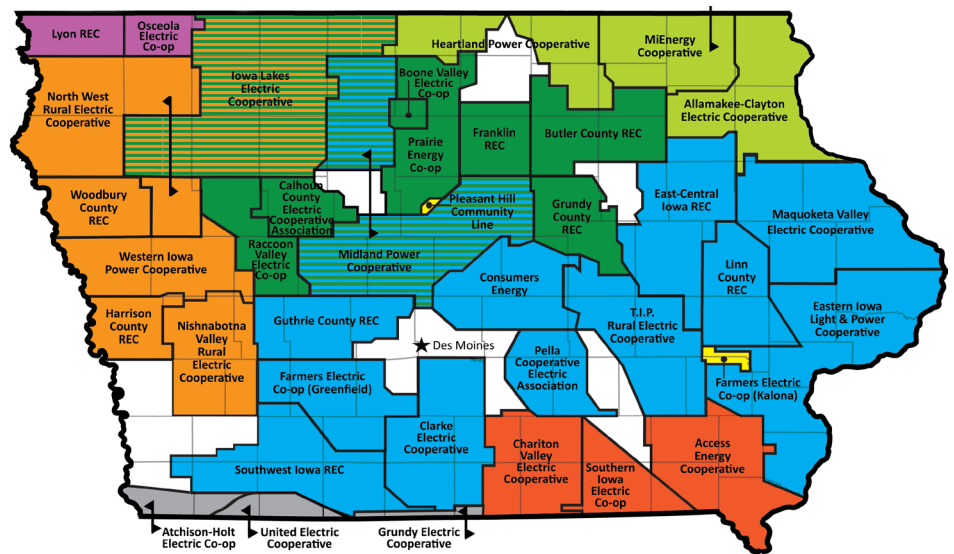
Reduced electric service territory protections will decrease reliability

Our analysis of publicly available industry data shows that electric reliability is lower in deregulated Midwestern states compared to Iowa. From 2018-2023, **electric outages in Iowa are 65% shorter on average** compared to deregulated Midwestern states. During that same time period, **Iowans experienced 20% fewer outages** than deregulated Midwestern states. This analysis comes from EIA-861 SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) and SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) data from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio and includes major weather events.

Protecting the interests of co-op member-consumers

Weakening service territory protections is unacceptable for Iowa's electric cooperatives and the members we serve. Your locally owned electric co-op supports Iowa's defined electric service territory law and opposes efforts to undermine it, which reduces consumer protections. Learn more about this important issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com.

Distribution Cooperative Members of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives



Generation & Transmission Cooperative Members of IAEC:

- Central Iowa Power Cooperative
- Dairyland Power Cooperative
- N.W. Electric Power Cooperative / wholesale power from Associated Electric Co-op
- Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative / wholesale power from Associated Electric Co-op
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative / wholesale power from Basin Electric Co-op
- L & O Power Cooperative / wholesale power from Basin Electric Co-op
- Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative / wholesale power from Basin Electric Co-op



Corn Belt Power to host annual meeting

Corn Belt Power is set to host its annual meeting at Briggs Woods Conference Center on Wednesday, April 2. During the meeting attendees will hear reports from Corn Belt Power's board, management, Basin Electric and guest speaker Danny Goldberg.

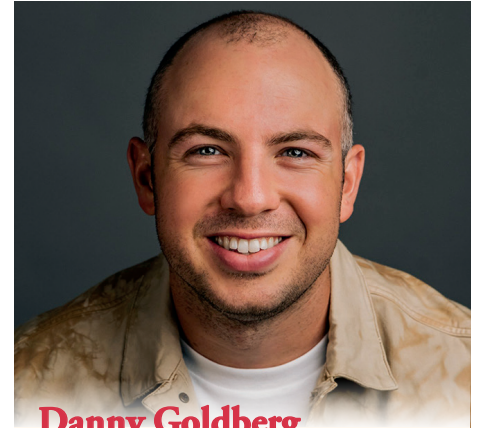
Danny Goldberg knows what it takes to transform high turnover and low performance into connection, innovation, retention, and results.

Acclaimed speaker and award-winning entrepreneur Danny Goldberg built an eight-figure business in a few short years, all before the age of 30. Along the way, his desire to learn what makes great organizations great led him to spend nearly 10 years decoding exactly what it takes to be an effective leader.

Danny's Modern Leadership Framework gives leaders at all levels actionable insights that will help them foster depth, personalize their leadership approach, and lead in a way that inspires loyalty. Danny loves captivating audiences with his engaging and relatable speaking style as he helps organizations cultivate care and connection to boost entire work forces' commitment. Everyone wants a satisfying career, and Danny's experience and knowledge uniquely equip him to lead the movement in establishing an innovative approach to leadership that truly works.

Danny believes that when people thrive, business thrives—and he knows how to help your team discover the power of care to attract and retain high-performing teams.

Invitations to the event will be sent in the coming weeks. ■



Danny Goldberg

Above | Danny Goldberg will keynote Corn Belt Power's annual meeting in Webster City, April 2, 2025.

Corn Belt Power ends 2024 with third month of full system reliability

Co-ops often refer to it as the “five nines of reliability,” a standard aimed at keeping the lights on 99.999% of the time. In early 2024, Corn Belt Power celebrated an exceptional achievement: zero outages throughout its transmission system in January and February. While occasional single months have passed without incident in the past, experiencing two consecutive months without unplanned outages is a rarity.

Winter months typically pose challenges for maintaining uninterrupted service due to weather-related issues, but this year proved to be an exception. Despite facing severe weather conditions in January and high wind warnings throughout February, Corn

Belt Power managed to maintain a flawless record.

January and February wouldn't be the only no-outage months. In December, Corn Belt Power achieved another month without an outage, marking three months in one calendar year of 100-percent reliability.

“This accomplishment speaks volumes about Corn Belt Power employees' dedication, expertise, and teamwork,” said Jacob Olberding, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power. “Our goal is that five nines of reliability. We set the bar high in those three months in 2024. We work every day with the goal of replicating that month after month.” ■



System reliability

Above | Corn Belt Power electrical maintenance and transmission crews maintain Humboldt Switching Station and surrounding line feeding into the station Oct. 7, 2024. Corn Belt Power went three months in 2024 without a single outage across its transmission system.

**Since 2005,
Corn Belt Power
has achieved the
following months with
no outages:**

January 2008

February 2010

March 2012

November 2013

January 2015

December 2016

November 2018

April 2021

January 2024

February 2024

December 2024

PRSRST STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Humboldt, Iowa
 Permit No. 32



2024. Service Awards



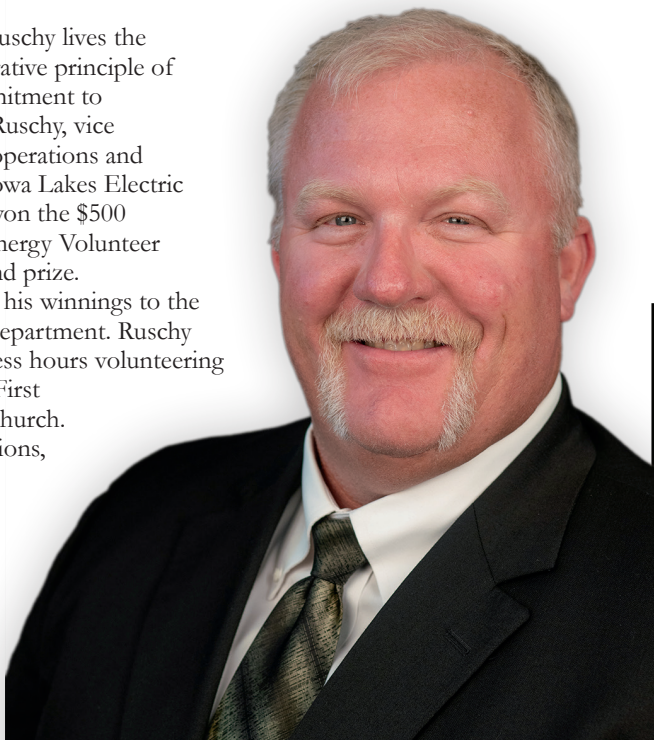
January Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Allyson Miller, Executive Assistant /
 Human Resources, Grundy County REC, donated her \$100 prize to the Grundy Center Community Preschool and Child Care.

Ruschy wins grand prize

Aaron Ruschy lives the cooperative principle of commitment to community. Ruschy, vice president of operations and engineering, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, won the \$500 Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge grand prize.

He donated his winnings to the Gruver Fire Department. Ruschy spends countless hours volunteering at Estherville First Presbyterian Church.

Congratulations, Aaron! ■



SEVEN ON 7.
 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
 EPISODE 26
bit.ly/NewOppsACSI
 NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ACSI PROGRAM

Corn Belt Power Cooperative **Watts Watt**

Watts Watt is published monthly for employees and associates of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, 1300 13th St. North, Humboldt, Iowa 50548-0508. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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