

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES TO THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE RURAL RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, UPON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENACTMENT OF THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION ACT OF 1937 BY THE 51ST ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WHEREAS, the continued economic and social well-being of the rural residents of the State of Arkansas depend in great extent on the availability of an adequate and dependable supply of electric energy; and

WHEREAS, less than two percent of the rural residents of the State of Arkansas had access to central station electric service prior to the establishment of nonprofit, member-owned electric cooperatives in 1937; and

WHEREAS, the 51st Arkansas General Assembly enacted an Electric Cooperative Corporation Act to permit the organization of electric cooperatives to distribute electric energy in the then-unserved areas of the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, electric service to more than 62 percent of the geographic area of the State of Arkansas is now provided by eighteen electric cooperatives organized and operated under the laws of the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, more than 288,000 farms and rural homes, businesses and industries are served by electric cooperatives, thereby enjoying the same labor-savings and conveniences of urban areas; and

WHEREAS, all residents of the State of Arkansas, urban as well as rural, have benefited from the better living standards made possible by area coverage rural electrification;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the General Assembly recognizes with appreciation the important role of electric cooperatives throughout the 50 years the program has been in existence; and, further, notes that electric cooperatives will have equal importance in the continued development of all of the resources of the rural areas of the State of Arkansas.