

Speak Out on Behalf of Your Electric Cooperative



Black Hills Electric Cooperative

ACRE Co-op Owners
for Political Action

What is ACRE® Co-op Owners for Political Action?

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action gives you, the consumer-owner, the opportunity to raise your voice on behalf of your cooperative. State and federal government officials make policy decisions that affect your local cooperative and your way of life. This program is an easy way for you to help send your message as a consumer-owner to elected officials.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification is a political action committee of the nation's electric cooperatives. Founded in 1966 by almost 1,000 cooperatives of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, it supports candidates for state and federal offices—those in office now and running for office—who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners.



Your participation in the nationwide ACRE program ensures that the voice of Black Hills Electric Cooperative remains strong in our nation's capital and in South Dakota's legislature. Maintaining a strong grassroots presence in the political process is instrumental to the long-term success of the electric cooperative program and our community in these unpredictable times.

Currently, more than 25,000 like-minded supporters of the electric cooperative program combine their contributions through ACRE.

Are ACRE contributions tax-deductible?

No. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that all political contributions, such as those to the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action program, are not tax deductible.

Please Consider Joining!



What do I receive for my contribution?

The most important benefit that you receive as an ACRE member is a voice in helping elect state and federal officials that will support your cooperative and your community. In addition, you will receive quarterly issues of the ACRE Action newsletter, which includes legislative alerts, profiles of cooperative leaders and other timely features.

Where does my contribution go?

With the exception of a small federal tax payment of less than one percent, all contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action go directly to the campaigns of candidates for political office. In addition, a portion of your contribution (about half) may be refunded to the state's electric cooperative political action committee to support candidates in South Dakota.

Do I really make a difference?

Your cooperative's ability to serve you and our community is heavily dependent on people like you who use ACRE to speak out for consumer ownership of their electric company. This is an opportunity to make a huge difference.

As a consumer-owner of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, you are among the 36 million Americans who can claim ownership in a not-for-profit, consumer-controlled utility that provides electricity at cost. As an owner, you have the privilege of participating in the political affairs of BHEC. That includes your unique right to make financial contributions to the campaigns of candidates for political office who support your electric cooperative.

Authorization Form

ACRE Co-op Owners
for Political Action

YES! I want to help keep the voice of Black Hills Electric Cooperative heard in the political process by participating in ACRE® Co-op Owners for Political Action.

I would like to make a one-time contribution in the following amount: **(Make checks payable to ACRE.)**

\$25.00 – Regular ACRE Member

Other \$ _____

Name: _____
(Please Print)

Address: _____

You may mail your check to:
Black Hills Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 792,
Custer, S.D. 57730-0792

Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action are strictly voluntary. Contributions to federal and state political action committees are not deductible for tax purposes. Consumer-owners have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Contributions may be stopped at any time upon notification to the cooperative. The contribution guideline is a suggestion only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount.

