



**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 6, 2014

RE: NRECA Support for the Electrify Africa Act of 2013

Dear Representative:

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) supports passage of the Electrify Africa Act of 2013 (HR 2548). I am asking you to support this bold policy vision for U.S. engagement in the energy sector in Africa when it comes to the House floor for a vote this week. We stand ready to partner with Congress to pass this legislation and bring access to electricity to rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the past 50 years, NRECA has seen how access to electricity substantially improves quality of life, both at home and abroad, by:

- Extending life expectancies through enabling operation of lifesaving medical equipment and storage of vaccines and lifesaving drugs.
- Bringing new economic and commercial opportunities through improved lighting, and operation of information and communication technologies.
- Increasing food production, enabling post-harvest processing, pumping, irrigation, dry grain storage, milling and other uses.
- Easing life through less exposure to smoke and fumes from indoor fires for cooking or use of other traditional fuel sources.

When electric cooperatives began to electrify rural America, only ten percent of rural farms in America had electricity. In 1962, we expanded our work into other countries through our International Program, and today co-ops have brought electricity to over 110 million people in over 40 countries. The public-private partnerships created by the legislation can encourage the private sector to take over functions the government was providing. Supporting Africa's energy development will also help create jobs at home, strengthening the ability of its consumer base to purchase even more American goods.

NRECA stands ready to work with Congress, the President and others in on this urgent and pressing issue to bring access to electricity to the 550 million people who do not have access in sub-Saharan Africa.

In recognition of NRECA's long history of designing and implementing highly successful electrification access programs, we urge Congress to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Emerson".

Jo Ann Emerson
CEO NRECA