



# Briefing

## Equitable Solutions to Rural Energy Burdens

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Room HC-5 – U.S. Capitol

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: [www.eesi.org/071619ruralenergy#rsvp](http://www.eesi.org/071619ruralenergy#rsvp)

Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: [www.eesi.org/livecast](http://www.eesi.org/livecast)

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)**, the **National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA)**, and the **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)** invite you to a briefing about innovative utility programs that are working to alleviate energy burdens faced by U.S. rural households. The briefing will showcase how rural electric co-ops and other rural utilities can benefit from USDA funding opportunities, such as the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) that was renewed in the latest Farm Bill. This program enables co-op members to upgrade their homes and businesses to cut their energy costs, which, in turn, supports jobs and rural economic growth by keeping more dollars in the local economy. Speakers for this forum are:

- **The Honorable Jim Clyburn (SC)**, House Majority Whip
- **The Honorable G.K. Butterfield (NC)** [invited]
- **Curtis Wynn**, CEO, Roanoke Electric Cooperative (NC); President, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
- **Chad Lowder**, CEO, Tri-County Electric Cooperative (SC)
- **Chris McLean**, Assistant Administrator, USDA Rural Utilities Service
- **Mary Shoemaker**, Senior Research Analyst, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
- **Mark Cayce**, General Manager, Ouachita Electric Cooperative (AR)
- **Doug O'Brien**, President and CEO, NCBA CLUSA (moderator)

Rural residents face higher energy burdens than their metropolitan counterparts. Energy efficiency is a key strategy for alleviating these energy burdens. But utilities serving rural communities often face challenges funding and/or delivering these services for their members, and the upfront costs of energy upgrades are often unaffordable for their rural customers. RESP can help fill this funding gap for rural utilities by providing no-interest loans to fund cost-effective projects, which can be repaid by customers on their utility bills over time. Such projects include efficiency retrofits, on- and off-grid renewables, energy storage, and beneficial electrification. These programs are part of a broader effort by many co-ops and other rural utilities to play a greater role in rural economic development by providing their member-customers with a wider range of services, delivered equitably to members at all income levels.

EESI's **Access Clean Energy Savings** program provides no-cost help to rural electric cooperatives and public power utilities seeking to apply for RESP funds to launch renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

**This event is free and open to the public.**

**For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at [alaporte@eesi.org](mailto:alaporte@eesi.org) or (202) 662-1884.**

