



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

POWERING THE LIVES OF CO-OP MEMBERS FOR OVER 75 YEARS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Cheri Bustos receives 2015 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award

ELIZABETH, IL — Friday, November 13, 2015— Leaders from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and Jo-Carroll Energy were on hand Tuesday, November 10 to honor U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos (D-East Moline, 17th Congressional District) with the 2015 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Bustos' dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program. The award was presented at the office of Jo-Carroll Energy in Elizabeth, Ill.

Bustos has been a strong advocate for Illinois electric cooperatives and their rural member-owners on a wide variety of rural issues, including: supporting the RUS electric loan program, supporting legislation which allows the continued use of large water heaters in demand response peak shaving programs, and sponsoring legislation to bring fairness to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster assistance program.

"Representative Bustos' support of issues important to not-for-profit electric cooperatives, and our cooperative member-owners, has been greatly appreciated," said Don Taylor, president/CEO of Corn Belt Energy. "We appreciate her championing issues important to rural Illinois and electric cooperatives. Her district serves a wide swath of electric cooperative territory including not only Corn Belt Energy's territory but areas served by Jo-Carroll Energy, McDonough Power Cooperative, Rock Energy Cooperative, Spoon River Electric Cooperative, Menard Electric Cooperative and Western Illinois Electric Cooperative."

Bustos has a family history of supporting electric cooperatives. Her concern for rural issues and rural electric cooperatives started with lessons from her father Gene Callahan, who was chief of staff for Illinois Sen. Paul Simon. Her grandfather Joe Callahan was an Illinois state representative and instrumental in passing state legislation that helped rural electric cooperatives survive "cherry picking" attacks by investor owned utilities when the cooperatives were just beginning to grow.

Bustos was elected to the East Moline City Council and later to Congress in November 2012. She currently serves on the House's Agriculture Committee and also on the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure.

About Corn Belt Energy

Started in 1938 to bring electricity to rural Central Illinois, Corn Belt Energy Corporation now distributes electricity to over 35,000 households and businesses throughout 18 counties. One of the largest cooperatives in Illinois, Corn Belt Energy employs 85 people, maintains over 5,000 miles of line, and distributes electricity from the Wabash Valley Power Association, a generation and transmission



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cooperative based in Indiana. As a not-for-profit energy cooperative, Corn Belt Energy is owned by the members it serves and is committed to providing reliable, affordable energy. Governed by 13 directors who are themselves residential members, Corn Belt also supports energy efficiency, education, and safety initiatives. Learn more at www.cornbeltenergy.com.

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Photo cutline:

U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos (D-East Moline, 17th Congressional District) recently received a golden hard hat and the 2015 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's Nick Reitz, manager of government relations (left) and Duane Noland, president/CEO.