



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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Two local students participate in Youth to Washington Tour*

**Bloomington, IL — Thursday, July 13, 2017**— Makayla Morales of Toulon, Ill., and Lydia Widener of Normal, Ill., represented Corn Belt Energy Corporation in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 9-16. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and were among 69 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,730 young leaders from across the country, a record high for the “Youth to Washington” Tour. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum, and several other historical sites.

Sophomores and juniors in high schools that are within the Corn Belt Energy service area are eligible to apply for this annual program. To learn more visit: <http://cornbeltenergy.com/community/educational-support/youth-to-washington-tour.html>

### **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 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](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com).

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*Photo cutline:  
Lydia Widener of Normal, Ill., and Makayla Morales of Toulon, Ill.*