



MT. WHEELER POWER

1 600 GREAT BASIN BLVD, ELY, NEVADA

POST OFFICE BOX 151000
ELY, NEVADA 89315-1000

TELEPHONE (775)289-8981
TELEFAX (775)289-8987

- **Voluntary and Open Membership:** Currently, in the majority of states that have legislated Customer Choice, they have provided an “Opt In” or a no requirement of participation, to Public Power Entities (Cooperatives, Municipalities, PUD’s) as their rates are typically lower than those of the IOU’s. Their association members are the owners of the assets. (Distribution Poles and Wires) **Member Economic Participation**
- As provided for in the proposed amendment, a minimization of economic and regulatory burdens. Our associations have demonstrated clearly that the minimization of regulation has allowed our associations to stabilize costs for our members. If regulated, we would have additional costs for administration that are not necessary.
Autonomy and Independence
- Unique to many of our NREA utilities, they are Interstate providers, with no differential in rules and rates. The mere thought that our Non-Nevadan members may be stranded with no service, provides for an additional level of complexity and creates challenges for our neighboring states. Providing for our existing consumers whether they are Nevadan’s or not is a priority of our association(s).
- Elected Boards of Directors (**Democratically Controlled**) **1-Member 1-Vote:** Our association members elect their respective representatives to advocate their views and ideals in all matters related to the utilities. This model has proven itself time and time again as one vital principle for success. Our association members are the customer (member), the custodian (board of director), and the caretaker (employee) of their utilities.
- **Concern for community:** Is a principle that is represented by all of the current providers in the state regardless of their business model. Every community/county in the state must realize the enormous philanthropic benefits that are currently provided that truly goes un-recognized. The contributions made to sponsored events, foundations, community projects will be will be critically impaired under this initiative. I personally do not believe that the energy providers that will be serving Nevadan’s, will provide the current level of interface into our communities that is taking place today.

Cooperatives in particular, have access to USDA Rural Development monies that will be at risk for our communities as they struggle to find additional partnership funding for needed infrastructure. Lessening these opportunities will place more financial pressures on our local and state governments to find monies for community projects. A strong indicator of the success and satisfaction of the NREA association members is that the initiative did not receive the overwhelming or landslide victory in our service areas. In fact, White Pine County was the only county in the state to defeat the question. When given the proper time to educate and provide studied accurate information to our association members, we are confident that the answer of our members will be clear.