

RM

Rural Montana

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Managing Editor: David Wheelihan

Communications Director, Editor: James V. Smith, Jr.

Offices: 501 Bay Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404

Telephone: (406) 761-8333 – Fax: 761-8339

Website: www.mtco-ops.com E-mail: rural@mtco-ops.com

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VIEWPOINT Dave Wheelihan



Dave Wheelihan

Working together, cooperatives push practical power solutions

October is national co-op month and in this issue of Rural Montana we will take a look at the history of bringing power to the people through the cooperative business model.

Inside the back cover of this issue, we list the seven cooperative principles.

Your local electric cooperative constantly strives to actively live these principles while bringing you affordable reliable energy. You can be assured Montana's electric cooperatives do more than give these principles lip service.

Across the country, electric cooperatives have come together to work on a comprehensive energy policy that will allow us to continue to meet the increased demand for electricity while address-

ing climate change issues in a responsible manner.

Obviously there are a lot of moving parts and pieces to meet this challenge. Affordable electricity is a vital component to a vibrant national economy and we want to make sure an energy policy doesn't take that away. Electric cooperatives across the country will continue to cooperate with one another to work on practical solutions.

We've said it before in Rural Montana, production of electricity in America is a domestic product that relies on less than 3 percent of imported oil.

When we see ads on television that talk about our addiction to foreign oil and then call for emissions free electricity in 10 years, we can't help but wonder at the disconnect.

We think a more prudent energy policy should recognize the importance of this domestic product and focus on making it even more affordable.

Also in this month's Rural Montana, we have our final feature on candidate's positions on energy. This month features the U.S. Senate race.

We also will feature plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and how co-ops support the effort to bring this technology forward.

Check out the feature on the world champ Fort Shaw girls basketball team and the rest of our articles.

As always, we hope you enjoy this month's Rural Montana.

Dave Wheelihan is CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

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