JULY 2022 COMMKIT – MEDIA RELEASE

**Electric co-op leaders discuss Tennessee issues with D.C. lawmakers**

[CO-OP HEADQUARTERS CITY] – Leaders from [CO-OP NAME] traveled to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 and 4, to meet with members of the Tennessee congressional delegation. [DIRECTOR NAMES] and [CO-OP STAFF NAMES AND TITLES] met with Sens. Alexander and Blackburn as well as Reps. [REP NAMES].

In meetings with legislative staff, co-ops leaders discussed taxes, infrastructure, broadband and other issues that directly impact Tennessee's electric co-op and the consumers they serve. Lawmakers were also invited to visit their local co-ops to meet employees, attend annual meetings or tour co-op facilities.

“It is important to tell our story,” said [NAME, TITLE] “We have a responsibility to our consumers to be sure law– and policy–makers fully understand how their decisions impact the people back home. Visits like this provide us with the chance to help lawmakers better understand electric co-ops and the communities we serve.”

“Relationships matter,” said David Callis, executive vice president and general manager of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, "and this trip is about building relationships. When lawmakers evaluate legislation that impacts electric co-ops or rural Tennessee, we want them to think of us. It is important for them to know who we are and how policy will affect us and our consumers.”

In addition to visits with members of Congress, attendees also heard from industry and policy experts, including Carla Frisch, Acting Executive Director and Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Policy​.