

GEORGIA

ASSETS: **\$29 BILLION**

REVENUE: **\$6 MILLION**

MEMBERS: **3.5 MILLION**

JOBS CREATED: **10,900**



GEORGIA CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in Georgia are working to build a better world by creating quality jobs, building community wealth, protecting the environment, reducing poverty and strengthening the local economy.

GEORGIA'S ELECTRIC CO-OPS

With more than 9.4 million residents, Georgia is the fifth fastest-growing state in the nation. Today, the state's 42 electric co-ops provide power to nearly half this population, covering more than 70 percent of Georgia's land mass.

GEORGIA'S CREDIT UNIONS

One out of every five Georgians is a credit union member. Georgia Credit Union Affiliates provide services and support to help the state's credit unions meet the needs of their more than 2 million members.



Georgia United Credit Union's annual drive collects 100 tons of food during the month of February to stock local food banks and feed neighbors in need. [photo: Georgia United Credit Union]

GEORGIA TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

CREDIT UNIONS: **179**

ELECTRIC: **46**

HOUSING: **24**

INSURANCE: **15**

FARM SUPPLY: **14**

UTILITY: **10**

ABOUT CO-OPS

According to federally-supported research by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, co-ops inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. Located in every state and every Congressional district in the U.S., co-ops create millions of jobs and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy issues—from affordable housing to early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices from businesses they trust.

RURAL BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT HEADLINES HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

The same organizations that took phone service and electricity to rural America in the 1930s are creating ways to provide digital access in the 21st century.

At a recent hearing of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy and Credit, members heard from a broad panel of witnesses who support rural broadband development.

"One of the most important commitments this committee makes to producers is to help provide the support and infrastructure necessary to make a living in rural America," Subcommittee Chairman Austin Scott (R-GA) said.

"As the committee begins to craft the next farm bill, we will look for ways to improve on the initiatives in place and to grow more opportunities for rural communities."

Among the witnesses were representatives from the National Rural Electric Cooperation Association, who said expansion of high-speed internet service throughout rural areas would create a digital highway for growth.

"Rural American cannot be competitive without access to high-speed broadband service," said Dennis Chastain, president and CEO of Georgia EMC, tes-



Georgia's electric cooperatives keep the lights on for more than 70 percent of the state's land mass, making them well positioned to expand broadband access to rural communities.

tifying on behalf of NRECA. "Many comparisons are drawn between the lack of access to robust broadband service today and the need for electrification in rural areas 80 years ago—with urban areas well-served and rural areas being left behind."

Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX) concluded the hearing.

"American agriculture has thrived over the last century in part due to significant public investment in rural infrastructure," Conaway said.

"If we are going to maintain that success over the next century while meeting a host of new demands, we must continue to invest in strategic rural development and energy initiatives."

Founded in 1916, the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International is the trade association for cooperative businesses in the U.S. and an international development organization active in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. For 100 years, NCBA CLUSA has advanced, promoted and defended co-op enterprise, highlighting the impact that co-ops have in bettering the lives of individuals, families and communities.

NCBA CLUSA
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