



## Rep. Roe stands up for East Tennessee by rejecting National Energy Tax

*First District Rep. Phil Roe stood up for Tennesseans who will be disproportionately affected by the National Energy Tax Bill (H.R. 2454), by casting a NO vote. Roe noted this is a bad bill for agriculture, rural communities and the economy as a whole. On July 7, he issued the following statement regarding cap-and-trade legislation.*

Although I've only been in Congress six months, in my opinion, H.R. 2454 is the worst bill that has come to the floor yet. President Obama claimed that "electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket" under his plan to deal with global warming, and he wholeheartedly endorsed this bill last week, which was championed in the House by Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

H.R. 2454 defies logic that at a time of economic recession, we would impose a regressive national energy tax that many have predicted will result in a net job loss. Supporters of this legislation only want to talk about the "green" jobs that will be created; however, it seems to me as if they are conveniently ignoring many studies that indicate that for every one of these new jobs, two are eliminated.

Climate change is a serious problem that necessitates serious solutions; however, studies show that cap-and-trade will place additional burdens on Tennessee's working families who are already struggling to put food on the table and keep the lights on. Studies show that this bill could devastate states like Tennessee that use a large percentage of coal to create their energy. Worse, it refuses to count one of the few energy sources that produce no greenhouse gases: nuclear energy.



**Rep. Phil Roe**

This will specifically hurt the Tennessee Valley Authority, which derives 30 percent of its energy from its nuclear plants.

Partisanship and policy aside, the process used to craft this bill was certainly not Congress' finest moment in the history. Out of 200 amendments submitted to the House Rules Committee, the Democratic majority allowed only one for debate on the House floor. I offered an amendment that would have at least required China and India to adopt the same standards as the United States, but they did not allow it to come to the House floor for a vote.

The bill received widespread criticism from the agriculture and business communities, but their concerns were ignored. The American Farm Bureau strongly opposes H.R. 2454. They added that Congress is on the threshold of debating a program that will unquestionably impose enormous costs on the American economy, including agriculture.

Without international participation, jobs and emissions will simply shift overseas to countries that require few, if any, environmental protections, harming the global environment as well as the U.S. economy.

The bill still must be considered in the Senate, where I hope common sense will prevail and the bill will be defeated. If that happens, I stand ready to work together to come up with a logical alternative that reduces these emissions while growing, rather than shrinking, our economy. I voted against this bill because we cannot afford to lose our manufacturing base.



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## Holston EC team competes in Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo

The Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo is a two-day competitive event started in 1998 by and for the employees of Tennessee Valley Authority power distributors. The event recognizes and rewards excellence in safety, skill and knowledge in the field of electrical lineworkers.

The 2009 rodeo included competitive events for 47 apprentices, 29 journeyman teams of three, 17 individual linemen and nine senior individuals (age 45 and up).

Held in various locations across the Tennessee Valley, the rodeo provides an opportunity for lineworkers to showcase their talents and for family and friends to show their support. Participants, spectators and sponsors continue to look forward to the rodeo as it cultivates a pride in the trade and a kinship among participants and attendees alike.

The 12th annual rodeo was held June 12-13 at Huntsville, Ala., Utilities. Holston EC had three apprentices in the competition, Bryan Allen, Brian Parvin and Renn Lawson, and a three-man journeyman team of Ragen Singleton, Chad McLain and Wayne McCracken. Don Morrell, Arthur Davenport, Chris Couch and Robert Davenport served as judges for the events.

The apprentice competition included four skilled events (A6 disconnect, hurtman rescue, dead lift, triplex service installation) and a written test. The three-man team events included hurtman rescue, bushing replacement, transformer banking and 100-amp switch installation.



**Holston EC participants and judges at the 2009 Lineman Rodeo are, from left, kneeling, Brian Allen, Ragen Singleton, Chris Couch and Chad McLain. Standing: Arthur Davenport, Renn Lawson, Robert Davenport, Wayne McCracken, Brian Parvin and Don Morrell.**

Holston EC participants did well in the competition in both categories, and Renn Lawson brought home the only trophy with a third-place finish in the A6 disconnect event.

## 'Electricity Rocks' Tennessee 4-H'ers at 2009 Electric Camp

A group of enthusiastic 4-H'ers from the Holston EC service area traveled to the University of Tennessee June 23-26 to attend the 2009 4-H Electric Camp, an event bringing hundreds of seventh- and eighth-grade students from across Tennessee to the Knoxville campus each summer to learn about electricity.

These 4-H'ers were among 270 youth representing counties across the state who explored energy, electricity and the basic sciences through fun-filled, hands-on learning centers led by electric cooperative employees and representatives from other utility companies. This year's camp, with the theme "Electricity Rocks," featured six interactive learning centers.

"The focus of the 4-H Electric Camp is to improve young people's knowledge of electricity, energy conservation, alternative energy sources, electronics, computer applications and electrical safety," said Holston EC Member Services Director Jenny Lawson. "Campers develop a better understanding of the important role electricity plays in their lives — plus they have a lot of fun and get to make many new friends from across the state."

4-H Electric Camp is made possible through a unique partnership of UT Extension, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative



**Three students from East Ridge Middle School in Hamblen County participated in 4-H Electric Camp. From left are Holston EC Member Services Director Jenny Lawson, Austin Breeding, A. J. Logan and Ben Rush.**

Association and its member cooperatives like Holston EC, the systems of the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power, the Tennessee Valley Authority and other industry donors.

"4-H Electric Camp is special because it utilizes fun, hands-on activities to teach students about science, electricity and safety," said Holston EC General Manager Larry Elkins. "We're proud of our partnership with utilities across Tennessee to offer this valuable learning opportunity to young people from our service area."



## Washington Youth Tour — more than a memory

More than 130 students from electric cooperative service areas across Tennessee added their names in June to the growing list of young leaders who have experienced the vibrant activities of our nation's capital as part of the Washington Youth Tour.

Stephanie Derochers, daughter of Alfred and Janet Derochers of Morristown; Charlie Bernard, son of Bobby and Lisa Bernard of Church Hill; Jessika Fletcher, daughter of Terry and JaLana Clingan of Surgoinsville; Katie Lawson, daughter of Mike and Cindy Lawson of Rogersville; Sierra Nelson, daughter of Doug and Angie Nelson of Rogersville; and Julianne Price, daughter of Jack and Georgeanne Price of Rogersville, were awarded a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., for writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: Energizing Our Communities," describing how their locally owned, member-controlled electric cooperative provides valuable community-building support as well as reliable and affordable electric service.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops such as Holston EC, their statewide co-op associations and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for more than 40 years. Each school year, Holston EC sponsors a short-story contest for high school juniors. Winners are awarded expense-paid trips to our nation's capital the following June as part of the Washington Youth Tour. This year's whirlwind trip ran June 12-18 and included meetings with elected officials, visits to Washington's popular tourist stops and time to meet winners representing other co-ops across the state.

"This year's Youth Tour was another fantastic trip," said Michelle Simpson, Holston EC communications specialist, who served as a chaperone. "We always bring a top-notch group of students to Washington, D.C., and this year was no exception. These future member-owners thoroughly enjoyed everything we saw and were model ambassadors representing their families, state and hometown electric co-op."

On the tour, students saw famous sites they'd learned about in school, including the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean conflicts. Strolls through the varied museums of the Smithsonian Institution afforded the students opportunities to learn more about science, history and art. Other fun stops included homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, a performance of "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and an evening cruise down the Potomac River.

The Youth Tour also included solemn and sobering visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Memorial and the newly opened Pentagon Memorial, which honors those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The Tennessee group marveled at the precision and skill of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon at the Sunset Parade, performed in front of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial's iconic statue re-creating the flag-raising over Iwo Jima.

No trip to Washington, D.C., would be complete without a lesson or two in government and civics. The group was treated to a special after-hours, VIP guided tour of the historic U.S. Capitol by



**Holston EC participants enjoy the first stop on the Youth Tour, Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, in Virginia. They are, from left, students Charlie Bernard (standing), Stephanie Derochers, Sierra Nelson, Katie Lawson, Julianne Price and Jessika Fletcher and HEC communications specialist Michelle Simpson.**

Rep. Lincoln Davis of Pall Mall and Rep. Zach Wamp of Chattanooga and a meeting on the Capitol steps with Tennessee's senators, Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker. Later, Rep. Phil Roe of Tennessee's First District met with his young constituents at the Capitol.

An annual treat, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegation joined other trip winners from across the country for Youth Day on Monday, June 15. More than 1,500 students came together to swap stories of their Washington experiences. And Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time wheelchair basketball champion, returned for this year's program to share his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out."

When the trip was over, Stephanie Derochers commented, "The Youth Tour isn't just an essay contest or a trip to D.C. It's the chance to broaden your horizons and experience change where the nation itself based an experiment of its own." And Katie Lawson stated, "I now have many friends that I will never forget. We had so many exciting events take place that I will remember forever. I'm so glad that I got the chance to go on this trip and so thankful to all those who helped plan and organize it."

"This is another example of the wonderful programs our local electric cooperative sponsors to educate our youth on their hometown electric cooperative," says Holston EC General Manager Larry Elkins. "Through this and similar educational opportunities made possible by Holston EC, our future member-owners experience first-hand how we energize their communities."

# Story written in Holston EC Youth Tour contest wins first-place scholarship in statewide competition

*Julianne Price's short story, reprinted below, won first place at Cherokee High School, first place among all Holston EC schools and first place in the statewide competition among all Tennessee electric cooperatives. She will receive a \$3,000 college scholarship to the school of her choice.*

“Welcome to — ‘SHOCK EFFECT’ — the only game show that gives away a year’s supply of electricity for your home!!” shouted James Watterson, the host of “Shock Effect.” Backstage, Tyler Voltage took a deep breath. It was almost time. He was just about to walk out on stage in front of a live studio audience to be seen by a million or so people on national television. “Right, no pressure, just breathe. I can do this,” he thought.

“And now, we welcome to the stage today’s contestant, TYLER VOLTAGE!!!!” announced James. Tyler walked out, overwhelmed by the applause and brightness of the lights surrounding him.

“Tyler, are you ready to begin?” questioned James.

“Sure, bring it on!” Tyler grinned.

“OK, Tyler, here’s how the game is played. The first round is fairly easy. I will ask you simple questions about electricity, and if you correctly answer the questions, you go to Round Two. Now, remember that you don’t win any prizes for Round One.”

“I’ve got it! Let’s get started!” Tyler said.

“Tyler, the first question we have for you is ‘What is an electric cooperative?’”

“Man, you got this! You know this! Just think about home and how you get your electricity,” Tyler thought to himself.

“Well, James, an electric cooperative is a business organization designed to provide electricity to rural areas. Cooperatives are member-owned, which means that all profits go back into the cooperative for upkeep and maintenance,” Tyler stated proudly.

“Tyler, you are absolutely correct!! That brings you one step closer to Round Two. Now for your second question: ‘True or false — Cooperatives exist to make profit.’”

Tyler concentrated for a minute, and then his face slowly relaxed. “The answer to that is false, James. Cooperatives put all of their profits back into the company. Their priority is simply to provide the members with affordable, dependable electricity.”

“Excellent work, Tyler! You only have one question left before Round Two! Now, the final question — ‘Why did electric cooperatives get their start in small rural communities?’”

“Oh, wow, that’s a hard one! It’s all right, though. I know this. Just think, Tyler, think!”

“James, in the early 1900s, electricity was already available in larger urban areas. Electric companies didn’t see the

benefits of going into the smaller rural areas. Some people in these communities saw how much electricity could help, however, and decided to do something about it. Those people worked together and with the help of federal funds were able to start up electric cooperatives. The cooperatives then provided the rural areas with affordable energy, which led to new jobs as well.”



**Julianne Price**  
Holston EC

**First Place**  
Tennessee Electric  
Cooperative Association  
Scholarship Competition

“Tyler, you are absolutely right! For being correct, you get to advance to Round Two! Now, Round Two has slightly higher stakes than Round One. In this round you either lose everything or win it all. Now, there are three doors. Behind each door is the name of an electric cooperative in Tennessee. Your question is — ‘How does the cooperative energize our community?’ If you answer correctly, you will win a year’s worth of absolutely free electricity. Do you think you can handle this?” James asked, with a slightly sarcastic tone.

Tyler responded, “James, I can absolutely handle this. I think I’m going to have to go with Door No. 2!”

“Well, Tyler, this is the moment of truth. Your cooperative is Holston Electric!” James exclaimed.

Tyler took a deep breath and then thought, “I’ve made it this far, and I’m not going to blow

it now!”

“Holston Electric Cooperative energizes the community around it not only by providing electricity but also by supporting projects that help its service area. Holston Electric sponsors projects such as the annual lake cleanup, an essay contest for high school juniors and the Project Help Fund. The writing contest allows high school juniors to learn about electric cooperatives while writing a short story and possibly winning a free trip to Washington, D.C. The Project Help Fund requests an extra dollar from customers to pay electric bills of people whose financial circumstances prevent them from doing so. If a person has expensive medicine, loses a job or becomes financially challenged for other reasons, then Holston Electric provides funds to help pay his bill. In addition, co-op employees visit schools and educate young people about electric cooperatives and electricity itself.”

“Congratulations, Tyler! You’ve just won a year’s worth of free electricity! Well, folks, we’re out of time, but just remember — staying in the know about your electric cooperative can really pay off in the end — just ask Tyler! Thanks for joining us tonight; we’ll see you next week on ‘Shock Effect!’”

# Use tax credits to fund efficiency upgrades

By Megan McKoy, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

The idea of living in a more efficient home — and paying lower utility bills — has widespread appeal. But finding ways to fund improvements can be difficult during hard economic times.

Fortunately, the federal government offers two ways to recover some of your expenses when planning upgrades: energy-efficiency tax credits and renewable-energy tax credits.

Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — known as the federal stimulus bill — Uncle Sam offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy-efficiency measures made at existing homes in 2009 and 2010. You can recover 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows and roofs designed to help reduce your home's heat loss or gain. The credit also covers efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, hot water boilers and biomass stoves.

With a maximum value of \$1,500 for all improvements made in 2009 and 2010, the credit may be applied toward material costs on all projects. You can also use it on installation costs for heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and biomass stoves.


If you want to start generating your own power, consider taking a renewable energy tax credit covering 30 percent of the cost

of materials and installation for solar panels, solar water heaters and geothermal heat pumps. This credit applies to both existing homes and new construction. Projects must be placed into service between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2016.

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for both tax credits at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), keyword "Tax credits."

You can file for energy tax credits using Internal Revenue Service Form 5695. Remember to get a Manufacturer Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Both of the energy tax credits are nonrefundable — they can increase your refund by reducing the taxes you owe, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to reduce your taxes in following years. But you don't get a separate check for the credit amount.

Some electric cooperatives and state government offices offer further subsidies or rebates to consumers who want to make their homes more efficient. For a listing of state and local energy-efficiency assistance available, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).



## Making Sense out of Federal Stimulus Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides incentives for you to make energy efficiency improvements to your existing home in 2009 and 2010. Receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over both years. The cost of installation is not covered for windows, doors, roofing and insulation. A list of qualified improvements is at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), keyword 'tax credits.' Examples include:

<b>Windows and Doors</b>		<b>Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)</b>	
Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights	Must have Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) and U-factor less than or equal to 0.30.	Central Air Conditioning	For split systems, must have an energy efficiency ratio (EER) greater than or equal to 13 and a Seasonal EER greater than or equal to 16. For package systems, must have an EER greater than or equal to 12 and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
Storm Windows and Doors	When combined with the window/door over which it's installed, it must meet the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) in your climate zone.	Air-Source Heat Pumps	For split systems, must have a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) greater than or equal to 8.5, an EER greater than or equal to 12.5, and a SEER greater than or equal to 15. For package systems, must have a HSPF greater than or equal to 8, an EER greater than or equal to 12, and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
<b>Roofing</b>		<b>Natural Gas or Propane Furnace</b>	
Metal, Asphalt Roofs	All ENERGY STAR metal and asphalt roofs qualify. Must be expected to last 5 years or have a 2 year warranty.	Must have an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) greater than or equal to 95.	
<b>Insulation</b>		<b>Gas, Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boiler and Oil Furnace</b>	
Insulation	Primary purpose must be to insulate. For example, vapor retarders are covered but insulated siding does not qualify. Also must meet 2009 IECC and be expected to last 5 years or have a 2 year warranty.	Must have an AFUE greater than or equal to 90.	
<b>NOTE:</b> Select non-solar water heaters and biomass stoves also qualify for energy efficiency tax credits. Tax credits are also available for renewable energy, including geothermal heat pumps. For tax purposes, the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and receipt are generally required.		<b>Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan</b>	
		No more than 3 percent of furnace total energy use.	

Source: ENERGY STAR. For details visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)