With a proud legacy tracing back to the New Deal, rural electric cooperatives (co-ops) are meant to be truly democratic institutions where customers have a meaningful voice in co-op governance. Unlike investor-owned utilities, co-ops allow their customers—or member-owners—to participate in policy and business decisions affecting their electric rates and quality of service. Unfortunately, our co-op—Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC)—has instituted a number of undemocratic practices that block informed member participation. As a result, REC’s Board of Directors and management are making important financial and policy decisions without adequate oversight and input from properly informed co-op members.

DEMOCRATIZING REC

Repower REC, a grassroots group of concerned REC members, and Solar United Neighbors of Virginia, a grassroots nonprofit organization that helps homeowners go solar, are working together to address the problems with REC’s undemocratic policies.

If you as an REC member believe that you should have a greater voice in our co-op, please join us. It’s time to reform REC to put members back in control of important decisions about board membership, electric rates, service reliability, and where our energy comes from. Join us today to make your voice heard!

www.RepowerREC.com  info@repowerrec.com  @RepowerREC
Access to Information

REC does not allow co-op members to observe board meetings, where key decisions on matters such as electric rates and co-op finances are made. Nor does it make its meetings available online, publish detailed meeting minutes, or even provide contact information for board members. REC requires members requesting information from the co-op to agree to potential legal fees before providing access.

Financial Transparency

REC does not provide transparent, detailed financial information to allow members to evaluate a wide range of REC financial decisions—including capital-credit reimbursement to members, board pay, and increasing customer fees, such as the recent 40% increase in fixed monthly charges.

Fair Elections

Under current REC policies, it is nearly impossible to determine whether REC board members are informed and engaged. The lack of transparency also makes it impossible for members to cast informed votes for board candidates. Even worse, the board uses REC funds to encourage co-op members to cast blank “proxy ballots,” ceding power to the board to control election outcomes. And recent REC bylaw changes make it even more difficult for members to control our co-op by proposing amendments.