



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Departments

Member Service Option 3
Engineering Option 4
Energy Efficiency Option 5
Operations Option 6

After-Hours Outages and Emergencies:
541-536-2165 or 800-752-5935

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays and holidays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ron Cass, La Pine

Vice President

Daniel Jansen, Christmas Valley

Secretary/Treasurer

Steven R. Miles, Fall River

Tanna King, Chemult

Garry Journey, Crescent

Dick Luebke, Sunriver

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Louis (Brad) Crement, Gilchrist

Steve S. Hess, La Pine

The board meets the fourth Monday
of each month at the co-op office.

STAFF

General Manager

James "Jim" Anderson

Assistant General Manager

Sina Streeter

Engineering Manager

Tom Weller

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

HR and Communications Manager

Britni Davidson

Operations Manager

Brian Sharr

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Protecting What Matters: Midstate Lobbies for Fix Our Forests Act

At Midstate Electric Cooperative, the safety of our members and the reliability of our system are at the heart of everything we do. That's why Midstate Board President Richard Luebke and I recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for legislation that could make a real difference for our members and the rural communities we serve.

While in D.C., we met with representatives from the offices of Rep. Janelle Bynum, Rep. Cliff Bentz, Sen. Jeff Merkley and Sen. Ron Wyden. One of our priorities was voicing strong support for the Fix Our Forests Act—a bipartisan bill that has already passed the House (H.R. 8790) and is being considered in the Senate.

This legislation is critical to electric cooperatives like Midstate, which operates in some of Oregon's most wildfire-prone areas. More than 70% of our electric infrastructure crosses through federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. That means the delays and restrictions we face when trying to maintain or harden our system aren't just inconvenient, they're dangerous.

The Fix Our Forests Act would help change that. The bill is designed to reduce wildfire risk and improve infrastructure resilience by cutting red tape and streamlining federal permitting. It would let utilities clear hazardous vegetation and maintain rights of way within one year instead of waiting multiple years for approvals—time savings crucial for high-risk areas and aging infrastructure. The bill allows the removal of hazard trees outside current boundaries and supports wider rights of way for firebreaks and emergency access.

Beyond vegetation management, the bill expands access to wildfire detection technologies, improves coordination across agencies and invests in the firefighting workforce to meet today's more extreme fire seasons.

We told lawmakers that Oregon fires are no longer seasonal. They're a year-round concern. We need tools that allow us to act before—not after—a spark becomes a blaze. We reminded our elected officials that electric co-ops like Midstate were formed to serve areas others wouldn't. Our members are also our neighbors, friends and family, and our job is to keep them safe and keep the lights on.

The Fix Our Forests Act helps us do these things. It brings common sense reforms to outdated permitting systems, allows for proactive vegetation management, and helps us prepare for and respond to wildfires more effectively. This bill isn't about cutting corners—it's about removing red tape so we can replace poles, upgrade lines and clear fuels before they become a crisis while supporting the crews who risk their lives to protect us.

Midstate is committed to staying at the forefront of wildfire mitigation and infrastructure resilience. We'll continue to engage with our elected leaders and industry partners to advocate for solutions that work for rural Oregon. We'll keep doing everything we can to protect what matters most.

CEO/General Manager Jim Anderson

"Never let the things you can't do stop you from doing what you can." —Ronald Reagan

