



News Release

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**Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association Recognizes Senator Betsy Johnson as
“Cooperator of the Year”**

Salem, OR – At their December 4th annual meeting in Salem, Oregon, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA) honored Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) with the association’s “Cooperator of the Year” award. The ORECA “Cooperator of the Year” is the organization’s most prestigious award given annually to an elected official.

ORECA recognized Senator Johnson’s for her bipartisan work in the legislature to represent the rural interest of her lower Columbia River district. Sen. Johnson is “an outstanding advocate for citizens in rural communities by helping keep energy costs low and decision making local,” said Ted Case, ORECA Executive Director.

Robert VanNatta, Board President of Vernonia-based West Oregon Electric Co-op, presented the award. “Senator Johnson knows the challenges we face each day to provide affordable, reliable power,” he said. “We have a forceful voice in the legislature.”

ORECA represents Oregon’s 18 electric cooperative utilities that receive emission-free hydroelectric resources marketed by the Bonneville Power Administration. These co-ops serve in 30 of Oregon’s 36 counties and provide electricity to over 200,000 customers in rural and remote areas in Oregon.



Left to right: Robert VanNatta, Board President of West Oregon Electric, Ted Case, Executive Director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and Senator Betsy Johnson

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