

Mike Ross receives Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award

Little Rock, Ark. – Dec. 8, 2008 – The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas recently presented the second Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award to U.S. Rep. Mike Ross, D. Ark.

“It is with great honor that the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas name Congressman Mike Ross as the second recipient of the Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award,” said Carmie Henry, vice president of governmental affairs for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. Rep. Marion Berry, D. Ark. received the first award in 2006.

The Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award was created by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to recognize outstanding leadership by a public official that results in improvements to the quality of life of rural Arkansans. Gov. McMath’s unwavering support of the electric cooperative movement in Arkansas, along with his other accomplishments on behalf of Arkansans, set the standard for public service in Arkansas, Henry said.

“Congressman Ross has worked hard and courageously for the people of the fourth district. In addition to supporting the cooperatives on issues ranging from funding for the Rural Utilities Service’s loan guarantee programs to protecting the Power Marketing Administrations (PMA’s) and the hydropower resources they provide to cooperatives,” Henry said. “Mike Ross has been an important advocate in the House Energy and Commerce Committee for rural causes.”



Henry added that when it came time for a tough call on legislation to put the railroads under the same antitrust laws that the rest of American businesses have to obey and to reform the Surface Transportation Board, Congressman Ross supported the electric cooperatives position, even though the rail industry has a large presence in his district.”

Honorees are presented a statue of McMath that depicts his dedication to the electric cooperative movement.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 490,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.