

Thirteen Utility Systems Lead Delegation at APPA Legislative Rally

TMEPA was well represented at the APPA Rally last month. Our delegation included representatives from Athens Utilities Board, Bolivar Energy Authority, BrightRidge, Bristol Tennessee Essential Services, Dickson Electric System, EPB of Chattanooga, Gallatin Dept of Electricity, Greeneville Light and Power System, Milan Dept of Public Utilities, Nashville Electric Service, Paris Board of Public Utilities, Springfield Electric Dept, Tullahoma Utilities Authority, TMEPA, TVPPA, TVA, and Meguire Whitney. “We greatly appreciate those who were able to attend and personally carry the message to the Hill,” Solsbee said. “It is this type of effort that resonates with elected officials.” Representatives of the group met with 7 of



the 9 Congressmen and both Senators. Several key issues were addressed this year with the TVA Transmission System and Gallatin Coal Ash leading the way. Other issues were pertaining to pole attachments, the infrastructure bill, and resilience and FEMA reimbursements.

- **Public Power Model Preservation**—Trump Administration’s FY19 budget mentions selling TVA Transmission along with the PMA Transmission Assets which were proposed last year. TMEPA supports TVA and the public power business model in the Valley. These assets have already been paid for by our ratepayers. This proposed action would raise electric rates and force us to pay for the assets again. **Infrastructure**—Support for energy infrastructure being part of the proposed infrastructure bill. We also support the proposed bill to restore advanced refunding bonds.



- **Gallatin Fossil Plant Coal Ash Decision**—We support an on-site lined facility instead of moving the ash offsite for an estimated four times the amount at \$2 billion.
- **Pole Attachments**—TVA is our regulator for pole attachments, and this should not be moved to the FCC. We must ensure that broadband attachments do not pose a risk to electric reliability or safety.
- **Power Grid Resilience**-- Maintaining the availability of electricity in the face of physical and cyber threats is a mission critical priority for public

power utilities. We expressed concern over FEMA’s policy to only reimburse for the value of the depreciated assets at the time the disaster occurred.