

TENNESSEE

ASSETS: **\$41 BILLION**

REVENUE: **\$4.3 BILLION**

MEMBERS: **4.7 MILLION**

JOBS CREATED: **15,520**

TOTAL
CO-OPS:
358

TENNESSEE CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in Tennessee are working to build a better world by creating quality jobs, building community wealth, protecting the environment, reducing poverty and strengthening the local economy.

BLUETICK BREWERY

Bluetick Brewery, Tennessee's first cooperative brewery, is part of the state's recent craft beer boom. Committed to protecting their backyard of the Smokies, Bluetick is putting sustainable practices in the forefront of their brewery mission.

THREE RIVERS MARKET

Three Rivers Market, Tennessee's first and only food cooperative, has worked to create and nourish a healthier environment, healthier people and a healthier community since 1981.



Three Rivers Market is community-owned and community oriented. [photo: Three Rivers Market]

TENNESSEE TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

CREDIT UNIONS: **196**

FARM SUPPLY: **75**

ELECTRIC: **23**

INSURANCE: **23**

UTILITIES: **9**

HOUSING: **6**

ABOUT CO-OPS

According to federally-supported research by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, co-ops inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. Located in every state and every Congressional district in the U.S., co-ops create millions of jobs and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy issues—from affordable housing to early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices from businesses they trust.

TENNESSEE'S RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OPS CAN OFFER VIDEO SERVICES UNDER AMENDED BROADBAND BILL

Tennessee's rural electric cooperatives will be allowed to offer video to customers as well as broadband services under an amended version of Gov. Bill Haslam's Broadband Accessibility Act.

In response to concerns raised by proponents of broadband expansion, the governor added video offerings to the legislation as it moved through the House Business and Utilities Subcommittee.

"The administration and interested parties have made a good bill even better," Assistant Majority Leader David Hawk, R-Greeneville, who is carrying the governor's bill, told panel members.

While the bill's goal is make broadband internet accessible in the state's underserved areas, Hawk noted, "we also want broadband to be adopted."

Allowing the nonprofit electric co-ops to have cable-like television offerings is a way of doing that in rural Tennessee where 34 percent of residents don't have broadband access, the leader noted.



Co-ops are applauding the House Business and Utilities Subcommittee for passage of the Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act. [photo: Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association]

Many of those residents already live in areas served by electric cooperatives, according to the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.

David Callis, executive vice president and general manager for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, said in a statement the bill is "an important step to expand access to high-speed internet in rural Tennessee."

"This legislation will not only help areas with the greatest need for high-speed internet, but it will also create jobs and improve access to education and health-care," Callis said.

Founded in 1916, the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International is the trade association for cooperative businesses in the U.S. and an international development organization active in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. For 100 years, NCBA CLUSA has advanced, promoted and defended co-op enterprise, highlighting the impact that co-ops have in bettering the lives of individuals, families and communities.

NCBA CLUSA
The National Cooperative Business Association • CLUSA International

1775 Eye Street NW | 8th Floor | Washington, DC 20006
www.ncba.coop | 202.638.6222 | info@ncba.coop