



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Up Date

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A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

“...the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.”

By the time you read this, we will have just celebrated our nation's independence. You and I have the benefit of living in the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. We enjoy freedoms that others can only dream about. We are even free to complain about the way our freedoms are administered!

We complain about politicians. In fact, it's a national pass time—second only to baseball. And, when we are not complaining about politicians, they are complaining about each other. Democrats say global warming is fast approaching, if it hasn't already arrived. Republicans say there is no such thing — it's just a normal weather pattern that is cyclical. One famous female celebrity of my generation, said hurricanes Rita and Katrina were George Bush's fault! She said he is the reason there is global warming.

Each branch of our government accuses the other of over-stepping its constitutional authority. We blame the government for unemployment, AIDS and the shortage of flu vaccine. We expect every level of government to be able to readily deal with the results of horrific natural disasters, and when the damage is more than anyone could have conceived, we blame the leadership of government.

We complain about our taxes, and, in the next breath, complain about people not having access to health care. We don't want anyone to be homeless, but we don't want to pay more taxes. We are unwilling to have our freedoms tampered with, but we get upset when our military must flex its collective muscle.

And yet, one simple truth abounds—none of us would leave the safety of our shores for any other corner of the world. We are safe! We are free! We are independent! And no one on Earth or in history has experienced these valuable commodities in more abundance than we do and have.

All of this is possible—the complaining, the safety, the freedom, the independence, because there are those who stand in harms' way to ensure these precious rights remain. They train, they suffer, they prepare, they stand ready—and when called upon, they march into the very jaws of danger to preserve what we feel so free to complain about. They do it for us, they do it for the oppressed around the world when necessary; and they do it without complaining.

I have watched interviews with those who have returned injured; in some cases permanently impaired. I have listened as one after another explains in clear words, they would do it all again. They would do it again because at some point in their lives the rights we enjoy as Americans became more than an intellectual understanding—it became a part of them. The American Military is on alert around the world; please keep them in your prayers.

Although there is no comparison in terms of sacrifice, I want you to know there are those who make sure that you always have access to safe reliable electric energy. The board of directors and employees do a lot everyday to ensure your access to electric energy is all that you need it to be. And when your lights do go out, notice the conditions that exist at that time and be reminded that there are linemen out in those conditions working hard to restore your power. Please pray for them, as well.

Happy Birthday America!