



NEWS RELEASE

CoBank Contributes \$250,000 To NRECA International Foundation

Gift Will Support Rural Electrification In Developing Countries

NEW ORLEANS (February 16, 2016) – CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations throughout the United States, announced today that the bank will contribute \$250,000 in continued support of the Foundation’s rural electrification efforts in developing countries.

“At CoBank, just like at NRECA, we see every day how important reliable, affordable power is to the quality of life and vitality of rural communities,” said Robert B. Engel, chief executive officer of CoBank. “Electrification completely transformed the rural economy here in the U.S. - and was a cornerstone in creating an economic engine for the entire country, as well as a great place for people to live and raise their families. That opportunity should not stop at our borders.”

For 50 years, NRECA International has provided women, men and children in developing countries with access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. The organization has pioneered low-cost rural electrification in countries by designing distribution grids, constructing lines, and applying a set of standards that meet very specific community needs. NRECA International has a wealth of experience in the planning and operation of various power generation technologies including renewable resources.

“We are deeply grateful to CoBank for its generous donation and its lasting partnership,” said Marc Breslaw, executive director, NRECA International Foundation. “When NRECA and the Foundation sought leadership in the corporate community, CoBank stepped up to the plate. Their belief in our mission allows us to create a truly life changing experience that has the power to bring educational and economic opportunity, improved health and safety to rural areas across the globe.”

The NRECA International Foundation is the main charitable giving arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which represents over 900 rural power cooperatives across the United States. In 2015, CoBank donated \$250,000 to support the Foundation’s initiatives: at the time, it was the largest single corporate gift in the foundation’s history. The combined \$500,000 will help fund the development of NRECA International’s rural electrification projects in Africa, as well as Central and Latin America.

“Others around the world deserve to pursue the same quality of life we enjoy – and the single greatest foundational asset to that pursuit is electricity. We have a tremendous opportunity to showcase the power of electricity – and the depth of our hearts. That’s why we at CoBank are so proud to partner with NRECA, the Foundation and the rural electric cooperative industry to bring much needed power to communities around the world,” Engel said.

About CoBank

CoBank is a \$110 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 75,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture and the nation's rural economy. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

For more information about CoBank, visit the bank's web site at www.cobank.com.

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