

*“Statement in Support of Iowa’s Rural Electric Cooperatives
and their Legislative Efforts to Enact Standards and a
Regulatory Process for Addressing Stray Voltage Claims”*



**TO: Stray Electric Current and Agriculture Study Committee
Monday, October 28, 2013**

Mark Douglas
President, Iowa Utility Association

On behalf of the member companies of the Iowa Utility Association (IUA), I would like to register the support of our association for legislation brought forward by our state’s electric cooperatives that would establish a new regulatory construct for addressing claims of stray voltage.

The IUA has been actively supportive of Iowa’s REC’s on this effort for several years. Our member companies who provide electric service throughout the state share the concerns of electric cooperatives over the growing number of lawsuits – often promoted by out-of-state lawyers who are taking advantage of our state’s lack of stray voltage standards. In addition, we clearly view this as a safety issue. Without the proper electrical standards in place, unsafe conditions have the potential to cause excess stray voltage that could lead to injuries to our customers and/or our line personnel.

The IUA urges your support for stray voltage legislation that includes the following components:

- A science-based standard for stray voltage;
- Adequate notice for the utilities to give them time to react in a positive way to the possible existence of excess stray voltage; and,
- Timely access for utilities to the dairy farm so the utility can act with adequate notice and immediately begin testing for excess stray voltage and its source.

We firmly believe these provisions represent a common-sense approach to resolving the stray voltage issue. Thank you for allowing me to submit my statement for the record. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

The Iowa Utility Association, or IUA, was formed in 1971 to develop, organize and promote improvement in the common business interests and conditions of Iowa’s investor-owned electric and natural gas public utilities.

IUA member companies: [Alliant Energy](#) | [Black Hills Energy](#) | [MidAmerican Energy Company](#) | [ITC Midwest](#) | [Liberty Utilities](#) | [NextEra Energy Duane Arnold](#)