ELIZABETH TATE BENNETT

(b) (6)

National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Sr. Principal, Legislative Affairs **June 2015- Present**
Lead Lobbyist on Environment & Appropriations Issues

- Designated NRECA liaison in the Coal Utilization Research Council (CURC), Utility Solid Waste Activities Group (USWAG), Washington Coal Club, Women in Agriculture and Women in Government Relations
- Builds broad coalitions of industry stakeholders with common legislative interests
- Spearheaded plan to increase NRECA engagement with Congressional Offices on social media
- Works regularly with NRECA's regulatory and legal teams on in-depth policy issues
- Drafts op-eds for placement in local co-op magazines and newsletters
- Travels regularly throughout the Midwest and Southeast for speaking engagements at co-ops
- Responsible for designating campaign contributions for all EPW/E&C/Appropriations Committee Members
- Maintains strong relationships with individual Members of Congress & senior staff within Senate and House Leadership, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, House Energy & Commerce, Senate/House Appropriations Committees/Subcommittees, House/Senate Agriculture Committees
- Maintains strong relationships with rural & D.C. stakeholders in policy arenas of energy, environment, telecomm & agriculture
- Assisted EPA Transition Team with General Pruitt's confirmation hearing process: identified and connected Team with Congressional allies from key states. Facilitated industry op-eds and social media placement
- Utilized industry coalitions and NRECA's grassroots network to build support for final passage of WIIN
- Obtained a record 38 Senate, 218 House signatures on annual Rural Utility Service letters for FY17

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Legislative Assistant for Energy & Agriculture **July 2013- June 2015**

- Advised Leader on the Senate Floor for votes on relevant EPA, Interior, DOE, FERC & USDA nominations
- Advised the Leader on selecting GOP Conferees to 2014 Farm Bill
- Advised the Leader during Conference of the 2014 Farm Bill. Helped him insert personal leg priorities
- Regularly staffed the Leader in weekly meetings with D.C. and KY stakeholders
- Spearheaded innovative initiatives (both legislative and non-legislative) during busy political year, including the Leader's 2014 visit (with local coal miner) to EPA HQ for a Public Listening Session on the CPP. Worked with House Coal Caucus to organize press conference outside the Capitol immediately after
- Oversaw the 2015 Senate confirmation process of Jeff Hall for the Farm Credit Administration Board
- Drafted, whipped and passed McConnell-Merkley hemp amendment to the 2014 CJS Appropriations Bill
- Protected 2014 USDA tobacco buyout settlement payments from sequestration. Wrote Sec. Vilsack and OMB Director Burwell identifying specific Budget Control Act language exempting revolving trust dollars, which includes tobacco payments, as exempt from sequester
- Met with and successfully persuaded USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden to reverse a 2013 RMA decision altering crop insurance rotation requirements for tobacco
- Secured speakers from the Administration for Senate briefings including CFTC Commissioner Giancarlo
- Managed efficient, timely mail and vote rec. programs for issues; oversaw small team of leg correspondents
- Initiated a plan to build relationships with Senate Democratic staff
- Represented the Leader's Office at Senate Western Caucus meetings
- Enhanced D.C./KY perceptions of the Leader's accessibility via strong interpersonal skills, open-door policy

Congressman Andy Barr (KY-06), Senior Legislative Assistant **January 2013- July 2013**
Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Legislative Assistant **June 2009-January 2013**

EDUCATION: **Georgetown University** Washington, D.C., Master's in Public Relations & Communications
Centre College, Danville, KY, Bachelor of Arts, Government