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| December 27, 2020 |

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| Dear Fellow Rural Caucus Members (and Allies), I hope you are enjoying a happy, healthy, heartwarming and delicious weekend. My family joins me in sending you and yours our warmest wishes. And, with any luck, you’ve gotten plenty of rest these past few days, so you can give some time and energy to phone and text bank for Georgia.I randomly came across the following quote: **"What we have before us are some breathtaking opportunities disguised as insoluble problems.**" So, I of course Googled it. The author is John Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in 1965, describing the future Great Society. In the three years that followed, he launched Medicare, was pivotal in enforcing the 1964 Civil Rights Act and presided over passage of the landmark 1965 Education Act that redefined the federal role in education, targeting funding to poor students. He also oversaw the creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Gardner resigned because he could not support the war in Vietnam and went on to found Common Cause.We too face “breathtaking opportunities”. One of them is our unique political situation in rural California. We need to heed Elizabeth Betancourt’s call to action to stay engaged. You can read her [**invaluable insights here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QWq04N9N9umLq8Lch2rcGovrM5CcSe2URKfAINrxv_KW5oYY2HEf06BpS-gQV629LND1KD71G6bVy61E2jAttowCX_WQiBLRnnJkQMSYBG-C5pHmTNV-dviiWPQtNcb4TCBb7eVRXr1wGJzDHT-XK90Pd9c3EntOAkZtCeZL6tb8V3p6k9xoGqsrL_3_SC6IOVhcGXIv5QR-y7-gCtYaMHv4ichria5Ue61AHOVR0pA=&c=khcWC-849PsvipaOmJNPFKFIvBAFVLwooFmOJsomglqqsoCTP7CO8w==&ch=-qrFp7x1T-C7hcB9C_n4cHHpc197hBwMG2BtWJ7HvaBjbCADFopLTg==).Another “breathtaking opportunity” is Broadband. To bring you up to date, The California Broadband Council has approved a “California Action Plan”. It amply describes the needs and challenges … especially in rural California, but unfortunately is short on action. It ***does*** provide an essential piece of the puzzle – a costing model, developed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which puts the price tag at $5 to $7 billion to wire all the unserved areas of the state (depending on your definition of unserved).Meanwhile, there are three bills in the legislature. [**Here is a side-by-side comparison**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QWq04N9N9umLq8Lch2rcGovrM5CcSe2URKfAINrxv_KW5oYY2HEf06BpS-gQV629_SE6Ue9JfIaAkT-6h7JwOpMtvBsThtcP25gffOVUN-T2M3mSFjb3U1zlCYWh8XUptMkMRHa2AEgY5ttyE3QybpRtuMhC_Prrq-MvrgC1yIKirexdZp4YTqzcTPEbETcG2opdPiJjWorx-pBGxXNQ1QhsG6_pLZt1Cb9e9gm2X8o=&c=khcWC-849PsvipaOmJNPFKFIvBAFVLwooFmOJsomglqqsoCTP7CO8w==&ch=-qrFp7x1T-C7hcB9C_n4cHHpc197hBwMG2BtWJ7HvaBjbCADFopLTg==). I would very much like to get your feedback. This is a working document. You’ll see my notes and Dean and Eleanor Rewerts’ notes in the comments. The goal is to pull together a position paper and then make that position known to our electeds.I asked Glenn Glazer to provide an update on PG&E. Here is what he sent in: " It has been a relatively quiet quarter for PG&E in that they haven't burned down any towns lately ..." Of course, there’s a lot more, which you can [**read here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QWq04N9N9umLq8Lch2rcGovrM5CcSe2URKfAINrxv_KW5oYY2HEf06BpS-gQV629cDqiAtedX5K5IsTSAZVPGCARnmeqcC6MAZiEZe35jEzq0qIALmzkjO4waZbTcQEN828GYlInB0tqDWSLiatwKXgEySIBHym9nQCylkMdt3gZ2pBne0e43WKjzRBCd9tOx8DrgD3FObC_mNmD5mjpzCwc0pgsYN4hIJ8bQBWnyI4=&c=khcWC-849PsvipaOmJNPFKFIvBAFVLwooFmOJsomglqqsoCTP7CO8w==&ch=-qrFp7x1T-C7hcB9C_n4cHHpc197hBwMG2BtWJ7HvaBjbCADFopLTg==). Phil Grosse does a great job staying in touch with our key contacts in Sacramento, especially re: Safe Drinking Water, and got a heads up that we need to re-engaged in this effort. He says no new big legislation is expected, but safe, reliable drinking water needs our constant attention. There’s no independent funding source and greenhouse gas funds have run low this year. Phil brilliantly suggests we get a permit to set up a small tent in front of the state capitol where we can hold outdoor, socially distanced meetings.I am hoping the water Policy Discussion Group will resume its work as many water issues loom large. As always, with water, we have no shortage of “breathtaking opportunities”.Finally, registration for the Virtual January 2021 Special 1-Day Only Executive Board Meeting is open. It is a free event, but you must register to get the link and $60 DSCC membership dues must be paid to vote. **E-Board Registration Link -**[**To begin registering, please click here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QWq04N9N9umLq8Lch2rcGovrM5CcSe2URKfAINrxv_KW5oYY2HEf06BpS-gQV629AhOzfzt0UtgddDhyYWNdUX6Yw_KwcjACWhggnH-VY98cDaa7IjIc3uFD4U7E_Gje_MaKKmvcjP3uPpEvbr61qGOFj-FF6mrkHl7xJoYHesp0U0xFXV6MX2TfbtQ6kp1-hivi0wXYgbqnVkV0itnNJkPksVoOwpD9uiLn71NKBwG9iRhZiU52QSyHPVlrtIHkAP8yhdMkCeDjxVnoSy3-qA==&c=khcWC-849PsvipaOmJNPFKFIvBAFVLwooFmOJsomglqqsoCTP7CO8w==&ch=-qrFp7x1T-C7hcB9C_n4cHHpc197hBwMG2BtWJ7HvaBjbCADFopLTg==)**.** *(CDP recommends using a desktop or laptop device when registering, if you are using a mobile device please switch to desktop mode).***Observer Registration Link** - [To begin registering, please click here.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QWq04N9N9umLq8Lch2rcGovrM5CcSe2URKfAINrxv_KW5oYY2HEf06BpS-gQV629bcAFcgL9QwqO3ehUFOzXOyXBiGjx_01nDZ3d52oX7GS8Tx667zcBcQPx2PPJypch5jQWNa-7kdqUkfFIXwWM_PExZHoPmBKUXe5UhtKoiK7Xn8q7WPrYiM0v0cBP7OPpyFDxiaspmeBClhqsi4zMc1V9htpG7twR1GW5Ra-B0tLc4hHM16wwxzLNR3Hig2CrX2QdL9qDVsfi0xs-E9-lK7iKOZ-j841P&c=khcWC-849PsvipaOmJNPFKFIvBAFVLwooFmOJsomglqqsoCTP7CO8w==&ch=-qrFp7x1T-C7hcB9C_n4cHHpc197hBwMG2BtWJ7HvaBjbCADFopLTg==)(Non-E-Board Member Registration – Observers will receive a streaming link to view the meeting live)﻿Pandemics know no calendar, but I cannot think of a more hope-filled upcoming date than December 31 when we will formally turn the page from 2020. We still have a long row to hoe, but it will be better. And I predict plenty of bubbly will flow on January 20th as we virtually celebrate the inauguration. With all my very best, Joy  |

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