5 BUDGET ISSUES CO-OPS ARE WATCHING

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

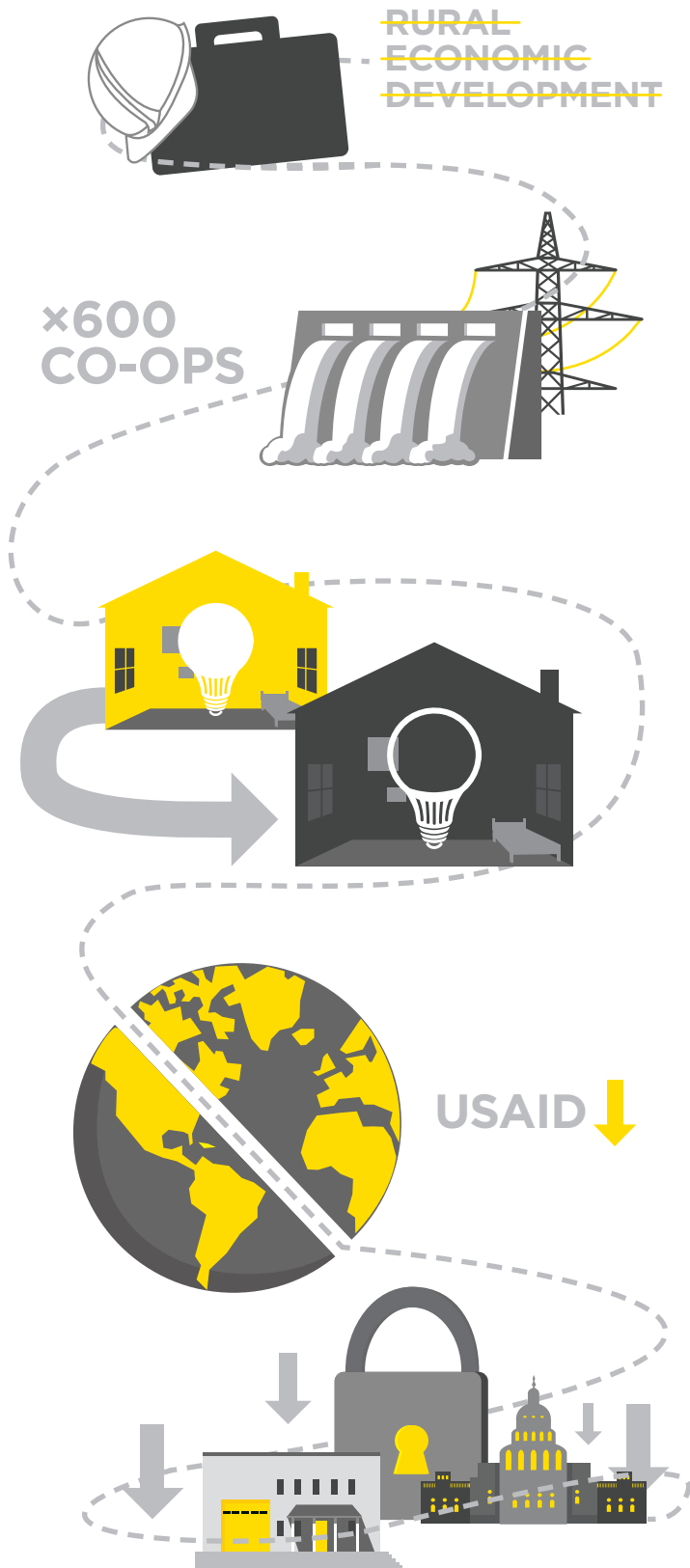×600 CO-OPS

Rural Development

The budget proposes eliminating funding for the **Rural Business Service**, including the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program (REDLG), Rural Cooperative Development Grant and Rural Energy for America programs. The administration proposes maintaining $5.5 billion in loan volume for the Rural Utilities Service electric program and providing $26.9 million for the Broadband Loan program, but seeks to eliminate the High Cost Energy Grant and Rural Energy Savings programs.

PMA Sell-off

The administration proposes **selling the transmission assets of three federal power marketing entities** to save $5.5 billion over 10 years. More than **600 electric co-ops** rely on PMAs for access to low-cost, clean electricity. The proposal would jeopardize affordable, reliable power for more than **100 million people** and have a devastating impact on rural economies with no benefit to the federal budget.

Eliminating LIHEAP

The Department of Health and Human Services proposes eliminating the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program**, a valuable tool that electric cooperative consumers use to help pay their energy bills in times of severe weather or economic crises.

USAID ↓

International Electrification

The budget proposes a 31% cut to the **U.S. Agency for International Development**, a major funding source for NRECA International's programs. The pressure to cut rural electrification programs could both halt ongoing successful efforts to provide millions more people access to reliable and affordable electricity and stall the growth of global trading partners.

DOE Energy and Cyber Programs

Four DOE applied energy R&D programs* are targeted for a $2.15 billion cut. Among those, funding for **solar energy would be reduced from $238 million to $134 million**, reducing the potential for future co-op solar R&D projects. **Further cuts to DOE cybersecurity programs** would reduce electric sector coordination and collaboration with DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery.

*Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Fossil Energy, Nuclear Energy, and Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

75 Years of Service
NRECA
® America's Electric Cooperatives