



Dear TSTCI Members:

We're getting ready for our **2017 Legislative Day & Reception**. This year we are going to be asking our legislators to know and help on our issue – USF.

So follow this link to our registration page ([CLICK HERE](#)). Please also make your hotel reservations soon. Our early registration cut-off date is January 30, 2017! Our hotel block is already SOLD OUT but we have made arrangements for alternative hotels. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the alternative list.

The 2017 Legislative Day in Austin will be a joint TSTCI/TTA event scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol. As in the past, we will have kick-off sessions then fill the Capitol halls visiting with legislators and their staff and inviting them to our “Where the Stars are Big & Bright” reception that evening.

Every legislative session we preach of the importance to our industry and the importance of rural – Rural Matters! But this year, the outcome of the legislative session is not only important, it is vital — to our industry, your companies, your employees and your communities.

When we say “Rural Matters” we mean “you” matter; your “company/cooperative/employees” matter; our “industry” matters; and **YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS LEGISLATIVE DAY – Matters!**

The road we are on this session leads to the Capitol building and we have locked arms and are heading up the path together. TSTCI/TTA are going to be asking our/your legislators to support our issues this session. You being there, asking your legislators will make a significant difference for all of us. Your participation is very important and will be greatly appreciated.

Our united presence will matter. And, while we encourage those that can and feel comfortable to visit your legislator(s) office and extend a personal invitation to the reception, Capitol visits are not mandatory. Your presence at this event and your attendance at the reception will also send a strong message of unity to our legislators.

The November election changed some of the legislators for our membership. Therefore, we are working to put individual company information together. In addition, for those attending, we will be making appointments for you to visit your legislator(s). If you schedule your own appointments or would not like to have an appointment made for you, please let us know.

Individual invitations will be sent to all legislative offices inviting the legislator and staff to our reception. We will have some hand-out invitations for you to take by legislator(s) offices during visits to the Capitol that day.

Another tradition that we will continue, is the drawing for the \$1,000 scholarship designations by those legislators that attend our reception. This event is successful and is made possible by the generosity of our membership in sponsoring the scholarship funds. In addition to the other sponsorship opportunities available for this conference, you will also note the scholarship sponsorship opportunity on the on-line registration form.

The block of rooms we had secured for February 20 & 21, 2017 have SOLD OUT; however, we have made arrangements to accommodate our membership at alternative hotels. Please contact us for that list.

Our entire TSTCI membership is included in this event. We hope you will make plans to join us in Austin for this important February event.

Any questions or for more information, please call 903-658-0055

