



(Local co-op logo here, probably take REED logo off or have it follow cooperative logo, smaller)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**(Location and date)**

**Contact: Tim O’Leary**

**Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative**

**507-247-5505 and email)**

**Southwest Regional Development Commission Receives \$150,000 Loan from Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative REED Fund**

**Southwest Regional Development Commission** was recently given a helpful hand on **February 27, 2014** when **Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative** issued a \$150,000 Rural Electric Economic Development, or *REED*, loan to **Southwest Regional Development Commission**.

The funds will be used to establish a pilot program for energy efficiency projects.

**(Potential quote from business owner/organization representative here—stating how appreciative they are to have received the loan)**

Working closely with local banks, other loan funds, state and federal agencies to finance community and economic development projects, **Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative** provides gap financing from REED to help business start and expand business, create jobs and help communities improve facilities, services and infrastructure.

**According to Tim O’Leary, General Manager of Lyon-Lincoln**, “Providing funding to **Southwest Regional Development Commission** is an opportunity to support energy efficiency programs. In today’s economy, employment and economic development continues to be challenging. The REED Fund allows us to make a difference in our small communities and rural areas.”

Approximately 88 percent of REED’s lending is established in communities of less than 4,000 people and 95 percent of REED-financed projects have local ownership.

“One of **Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative** core principles is *Commitment to Community* and the REED Fund is a good example of how we support local economic development,” says **Tim O’Leary**.

If you are planning a new business or looking to expand, or if your community needs financing for facilities or services, please contact **Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative at 507-247-5505** for an application or REED at (605) 256-4536 for more information.

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