



Thumb Electric Cooperative (TEC) announced today that TEC has entered into an agreement to sell its subsidiary propane business to Cass City Oil & Gas. This transaction will allow TEC to enhance its focus on bringing much-needed fiber internet services to the Thumb Area while allowing current propane customers to continue to receive both metered and non-metered propane services from a locally owned & operated company.

TEC started its Thumb Energy Services Corporation (TESC) subsidiary propane business in 1997 in a partnership with Cass City. A few years later, that partnership dissolved as both went their separate ways offering competing services. TESC currently provides propane services to approximately 1150 customers in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties. Most of those accounts have a metered service which allows customers to only pay for the propane after they have used it rather than making a large payment when their propane tank is filled.

TEC would like to thank all the customers who have made the propane business such a valuable enterprise for the Cooperative over the past 20-plus years. TEC prides itself in providing outstanding service. Propane customers should not see any disruption to the services they have become accustomed to. Cass City will continue to use the professional contracted services of Bartnik Propane along with Cass City technicians and employees for deliveries, tank sets, and maintenance. Dallas Braun, TEC General Manager, said "Customers can expect to continue to receive the great service they have become accustomed to as this transaction is finalized and Cass City takes over the business. This was one of the main factors why they were selected to take over the propane business, in addition to being locally owned as well as the abundance of knowledge and experience they possess. TEC personnel will continue to work behind the scenes to assist Cass City during this heating season to minimize any disruptions."

#### **About Thumb Electric Cooperative-**

Out of necessity, Thumb Electric Cooperative was incorporated in 1937 and in June of 1938 energized the first lines to bring electric service to 5,000 farm homes in the rural area of the Thumb. Prior to that, farmers could only wonder what it would be like as they watched people in the city and saw their standard of living increase because of the benefits brought by electrification. Today, TEC's electric infrastructure consists of over 2,000 miles of line, 16 substations, and two emergency generating facilities serving 12,300 member-owners in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties. TEC, a non-profit Cooperative, has its main office in Ubly with two warehouse outposts near Caro and one near Ubly. In 2021, the TEC Board authorized construction of a fiber infrastructure which will bring much-needed Fiber-To-The-Home internet service to the rural areas of the Thumb much like TEC did 84 years ago with electricity. Earlier this month, TEC purchased Air Advantage, a local Internet Service Provider to compliment the upcoming TEC Fiber buildout.

#### **About Cass City Oil & Gas-**

Cass City Oil & Gas began providing service in 1917. Established as a cooperative, the station offered automotive services – tires, oil changes, and repairs – as well as household appliances for sale. Eventually, Cass City abandoned appliance sales to focus solely on fuel products. In 1965, Cass City purchased its first refined-fuel transport tank to manage its own hauling needs and to provide hauling services to other businesses. Then, in the early 1980s – around the same time Cass City began offering propane gas – the company purchased Mac and Leo Service, acquiring a bulk-fuel storage facility in Cass City in the deal. The company's growth continued through the years with the acquisition of several oil jobbers throughout the Thumb. In



2006, the company launched its propane transport division, picking up and delivering propane from terminals in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Canada. Today they own and operate seven bulk plant facilities throughout Michigan's Thumb Region, as well twelve transport units running seven days a week. The company has been owned and managed by the same family for four generations.