

- 1. Minnesota's current net metering laws allow co-op members who install solar and small wind on their property to avoid paying their fair share for the infrastructure required to provide them with electricity when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. Those costs are then shifted onto their neighbors. As more rural electric cooperative members add solar and small wind there is cost-shifting onto others. What do you think about Minnesota's current net metering laws? What role should the state play in deciding how electric co-ops address these members' desire to add renewable energy?**

The laws need to change to reflect a more balanced and common sense approach. I assume these laws were put into effect to incentivize solar and wind energy use. I see no reason to place that burden on neighbors. It penalizes people who choose not to participate and creates unnecessary dissention. Plus, what happens when the number of renewable energy participants reaches a point where this is no longer financially viable? More taxes? Skyrocketing rates? The role the state should play is to facilitate electric co-op plans rather than hinder them or place St. Paul social engineering ideas on them. I do believe renewable energy has a role in our future energy needs. However, plans need to be comprehensive. The state should be the one to pick "winners and losers".

- 2. Co-ops exist because people in rural areas worked together to form non-profit organizations to serve rural Minnesotans. Now, third party companies have become more active in trying to operate within cooperative territories. These third party companies are looking to take the most profitable customers and leave the cost of maintaining the grid in the rural areas of Minnesota to fewer and fewer rural residents. How do you believe situations with third party companies should be handled?**

Allow co-ops to compete on level playing grounds. Are they? If third party companies are "poaching" profitable customers are they also carrying the burden of the infrastructure behind it? In office I look forward to working with the electric cooperatives within my district to develop a comprehensive plan that will address their challenges and provide the best service possible for our residents.

- 3. The Minnesota Legislature has implemented or increased mandates of certain renewable generation sources while electric cooperatives have continued to integrate and increasing amount of renewable energy into our**

generation mix. We have also helped consumers save money by teaching them ways to lower their individual demand for electricity. Do you support state mandates on renewable energy and conservation? What role do you think the state should play in determining the mix of energy used by electric co-ops?

I am against almost all forms of mandates. They tamper with free market competition and the consumer will always lose because of it. I understand renewable energy is part of our future and we need to invest now in it for the future. However, create incentives to expand into renewable energy generation. However, also allow for energy sources now available like coal and natural gas for electricity generation. The state right now is in the business of picking winners and losers and I am against that.

- 4. Minnesota leads the country in the number of stray voltage cases landing in courts. Minnesota has seen an increasing number of questionable cases brought to court due to the increase in consultants looking to benefit financially from a lawsuit. How do you believe these issues should be addressed in Minnesota? What qualifications should people who testify on stray voltage cases have?**

Sound science with peer review should be evidence of stray voltage. Unfortunately, our state's laws on civil cases open the door to abuse by profiteers. We need to improve tort law rules or this will continue to go on.

- 5. In the case of natural disasters, municipal utilities are entitled to a state match during FEMA-declared disaster to help repair damage to electric lines and infrastructure. Co-ops have access to state funds, but only through an application process with their county office that is not guaranteed. What role should the state play in helping rural electric co-ops turn the lights back on after natural disasters?**

Co-ops should be afforded the same access to funds and support as all other sources of power generation.