

- 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?**

**Kanne:** Encouraging the adoption of new energy sources is good policy for the state as we import our energy needs in the form of coal, oil or gas from other areas. Where this has come into conflict is where energy providers, like our rural coops, have made commitments to getting their energy from sources outside the state and have locked themselves into long term contracts. We shouldn't blame the new adoptees of green energy for taking advantage of incentives to be the first to get onto the grid. What really needs to be looked at is, "How can the costs of maintaining a base load capacity be fairly carried by all customers?"