

- 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?**

**Gruenhagen:** I carried amendments to eliminate or repeal net metering laws at the legislature. I consider them a transfer of wealth to the haves from the have-nots. I don't believe the state should have a major role in deciding how electric co-ops address their member's desire to add renewable energy. Renewable energy should only be implemented when it reduces the cost of electricity. I do not believe the state should micro-manage electric co-ops. I support laws that create an equal playing field for the providers of electricity for our citizen farms and business' and I oppose the state picking winners and losers and discriminating against rural electric co-ops.

**Lipke:** Like all subsidies or adjustments for a multitude of business interests I believe these will come to an end at some prescribed time in the future. As a agribusiness person at the time I recall looking at wind energy as an investment about 15 or 20 years ago when it was in its infancy. I believe at that time NSP had a great deal to do with writing then current legislation as a trade off in the nuclear waste question. At that time it was an electrical energy problem solved in part by the electrical industry. Like many things the solution at the time was perhaps not perfect.