

**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?**

**Gruenhagen:** I do not support mandates on renewable energy. I, in fact, authored a bill to repeal the renewable energy mandate in the State of Minnesota during my first legislative session. I believe the market should be allowed to determine the mix of energy used by electric co-ops. Again, the only renewable energy that I support is renewable energy that is economically viable and would reduce the cost of electricity to all consumers (hydroelectricity).

**Lipke:** Mandate is a strong word. A good solution would be for business and government to meet and come to workable terms on a mutually agreeable energy program. Mandates are also in part based on federal policy and to some degree on individual states natural resources and cost. What is good for one state is not necessarily good for another state. I have no preconceived policy agenda on this issue.