

Representative Tim Miller

1. What do you believe is the role of an electric cooperative in the community?

Electric Cooperatives power our businesses and our daily lives. They are an integral member of the community. They share the needs, desires, and concerns of their members. Decisions by the Cooperatives, input by the community members, and the laws which regulate their business should keep all of this in mind.

2. Do you believe the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) should be involved in setting rates, fees and charges for unregulated electric cooperatives that are governed by their consumers (members) through a member-elected Board of Directors?

No.

3. What is your stance on the net metering laws in Minnesota? Do you believe electric cooperatives should be required to buy excess generation from members who own distributed generation? Do you think it is fair to require electric cooperatives to pay the retail rate rather than the lower rate at which they purchase power from the market (wholesale rate)?

I can appreciate the intent on net metering laws. I believe our energy policy should be an "all of the above" and there is a role for point source generation. However, as stated in my answer to the first question, the Cooperatives' relationship with their communities are a two-way partnership. The interests of everyone in that partnership should be considered. I am definitely not in favor of retail rates for purchase of localized generation. Also, if a user who has wind or solar on their property but still needs base load power from the Cooperative, they should be paying their fair share of the expenses in the infrastructure. I am uncomfortable when government gets in the way of the free market. There is a role for regulations, but not for picking winners and losers.

4. Right now, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power is trying to balance environmental goals with reliability and affordability. Are you concerned that the Clean Power Plan and additional proposed regulations in Minnesota will tip this balance away from affordability for our members?

Yes I am. I am disturbed that Minnesota is the only state in our region that is pressing forward with the Clean Power Plan, even trying to exceed those standards, while there is a federal lawsuit which may make it null and void. It is manipulative of the system, it places us at odds with our state neighbors, and will eventually make energy way more expensive for our communities.

5. What is the biggest issue facing your district and how will you help alleviate this issue?

Health insurance. Greater Minnesota is facing its biggest challenge perhaps since the farm crisis in the '80's. People can no longer afford the premiums and deductibles. And, even if they can, they may not get insurance anyway. Medica is the only choice and they will be capped. Meaning, a farmer or small business person's only choices will be a very restrictive HMO or identifying ways to reduce income and become eligible for subsidized healthcare. That is not the American Dream. That is the American Nightmare.