

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?

Dahms: As I mentioned, co-ops have no profit motive; their only goal is to provide reliable, cost effective electricity to its members at reasonable rates. State law provides for self-governance and it is unfortunate that we are seeing more and more local control shifted to the PUC. Major policy decisions at the state have caused this shift. Those policies include the conservation improvement program, renewable energy standard and net metering law. For instance, it is unfortunate that co-ops are being forced to defend their net metering cost recovery fees before the PUC. Co-op members are perfectly capable of making the important decisions for all its member and we should do everything we can at the state level to ensure they maintain that self-governance.

Kanne: