

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)?

Dahms: Minnesota's net metering law need to be reformed. The law is outdated and reflects a time when there were very few net metering systems in any given service territory. Those times have changed. Distributed generation is a burgeoning industry. As the price of solar panels (primarily) continues to fall, you are seeing more and more homeowners installing systems to generate their own electricity. As these net metered systems increase, it is putting more pressure on non-net metered costumers to cover stranded costs and forces all customers to pay higher electricity rates due to state law requiring the purchase of net metered electricity at the retail rate. I believe the retail rate is too generous and is unfair to non-net metered customers. The legislature should fully review the net metering law for co-ops to ensure that all customers are equitably paying their share to maintain the integrity of the system at reasonable rates.

Kanne