

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)?

Newman: I suspect the requirement to buy excess power is the government's way of encouraging "green energy". However, I view it as unnecessary interference by the government in forcing the coops to participate in a program rather than participate by mutual agreement. No I do not agree coops should be mandated to purchase at the retail rate, the effect of which is to force consumers like myself to subsidize the cost of building the member owned generation equipment. At a minimum the coop's responsibility should be to purchase excess power at the wholesale rate but a better option would be to eliminate the government mandate entirely.

Wilde: Members who wish to generate electricity through alternative means should be able to sell excess generation to their co-op. Access fees, etc. may need to be negotiated. Cooperatives should be able to negotiate for market rates.