

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Natalie Herzog <nherzog@dgf.k12.mn.us>
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Lauren Brorby, CPA
CEO

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Too often catchphrases dominate politics and discussion on proposed legislation concerning renewable energy, specifically solar. Words like "sustainable" are thrown around by those advocating for a solar mandate. If a TV reporter says wind is free or that the sun is free, then there must be no downside, right? What gets lost when we use catchy phrases is meaningful discussion on the merits of whether solar energy is a reliable producer of energy and whether you can afford it.

In my opinion, solar energy is not yet reliable enough and still way too costly for state legislators to impose a heavy-handed mandate. Simply stated, proposed solar legislation (HF 956, SF 901) at the state Capitol would cost Minnesotans hundreds of millions of dollars for an energy source that only works when the sun is shining. Large-scale batteries are still prohibitively expensive. Just as troubling, this legislation adds another tax burden onto you that most likely will be used to fund solar installations for upper income earners who can already afford to install solar panels.

I don't want to speak for our elected legislators, but Sen. Kent Eken, Rep. Paul Marquart and Rep. Deb Kiel have indicated they are very receptive to our message voicing serious concerns about making our members pay for that very expensive solar mandate.