

May 19, 2017

*Via Electronic Filing*

Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place E., Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Comments of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance in the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into the Creation of a Commission Subcommittee under Minn. Stat. 216A.03, subd. 8; Docket No. 17-284**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) submits these Comments in response to the Commission's April 17 Notice to provide input on the prospective formation of a subcommittee to streamline the process of resolving customer complaints relating to distributed generation (DG) and solar issues.

As an organization that closely monitors ongoing Minnesota Public Utilities Commission proceedings that address distributed generation and solar disputes and other processes, we fully support the addition of a subcommittee. We believe such a committee would offer parties a smoother pathway to resolution.

As described in the Commission's recent notice, the proposed subcommittee would allow for streamlined, focused proceedings for certain parties whose disputes do not necessarily require the lengthier and more technical review that comes with a formal Commission hearing process. In addition, we believe that the proposed subcommittee could deliver further benefits if its proceedings are reflected in public eDockets filings and it has the authority to issue orders. Under this framework, parties can leverage increased transparency to more easily identify and apply past decisions to their current disputes.

In addition, the body would help the Commission to better manage its resources by offering an alternative pathway to its traditional hearings, which can last for years and come at a steeper financial cost for both the state and the parties.

We recommend the Commission implement this proposed subcommittee structure as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration, and this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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