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Docket ID No. E999/CI-15-755
Commission Inquiry into Fees Assessed on Qualifying Facilities
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E
Suite 350
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Thursday, May 5th, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Minnesota Farmers Union supports a net metering law that is fair and justifiable, the cost of which is at market value, and the actual cost for lines, poles and interconnection clearly demonstrated. We do not support any law that allows ambiguity and that adversely affects distributed generation customers. We support the right of farmers to have the ongoing ability to dispute and appeal the assessed fees directly with the Public Utilities Commission. We further support that cooperatives serve their mission of working for their members, and looking at both the costs and benefits of renewable energy when factoring in the net metering and interconnection fees.

The opportunity for renewable energy in rural America, and especially rural Minnesota, is great; not only in allowing our community and rural neighbors to become more energy independent, but also in helping keep family farmers on the farm by reducing the burden of energy costs. We further believe that rural cooperatives should be an engine to sustain family farms and provide jobs for rural residents, creating a path towards greater economic development in rural areas.

MFU believes that the benefits of renewable energy outweigh the costs, and that the net metering and interconnection fees are a barrier to adoption of renewable energy in rural Minnesota. One-by-one, each distributed generation customer is working toward making the United States independent from foreign energy, and creating a net benefit to the grid, as well as the environment.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thom Petersen".

Thom Petersen
Director of Government Relations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle M. Medina".

Michelle Medina
Director of Renewable Energy