

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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Ellen Gavin
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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

**Re: In the Matter of Establishing Generic Standards for Utility Tariffs for
Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities
Docket No. E999/CI-01-1023**

Comments of Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3)

Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3) would like to take this opportunity to commend and support the efforts of the Distributed Generation Coalition (DG Coalition) to reduce the barriers to widespread implementation of distributed generation projects in Minnesota. The DG Coalition has advanced the dialogue regarding distributed generation well beyond the theoretical, and identifies, in concrete terms, the steps required to allow distributed generation to become an integral part of Minnesota's electricity resource mix.

In particular, increasing availability of small-scale distributed technologies will provide residential, commercial and industrial customers with economically viable options for using locally available, sustainable energy resources to meet their own electricity needs. Where distributed technology is fueled by a renewable, emissions-free resource, it offers the additional benefit of displacing fossil-fuel combustion or other generation technologies with greater environmental impacts. Such small-scale distributed technologies create a public value beyond meeting a utility's resource and delivery capacity needs. The DG Coalition is right to demand that the public value created by renewable, emissions-free distributed resources be included in the Commission's tariff equation.

ME3 urges the Commission to take action in this docket to remove the substantial regulatory barriers that currently hinder the growth of clean, distributed generation, and to recognize the additional benefits of emissions-free renewable technologies in the distributed generation sector. The legislature has prioritized this policy, and it remains for the Commission to carry out that policy directive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.