

## District 3

### **FRAN BATOR - INCUMBENT**

1654 245th Avenue NE, East Bethel, MN 55005

#### **Occupation**

Self-Employed Director

#### **Board Experience**

Connexus Energy Board of Directors (1994-Present)

Great River Energy Board of Directors (2014-2022)

Minnesota Rural Electric Association (2001-2015)

#### **Post-Secondary Education**

Inver Hills Community College – Associate Degree

Brigham Young University – Bachelor Degree Course Work, Business Management

Phoenix University – Bachelor Degree Course Work, Business Management



#### ***What do you believe is an important opportunity and the most important challenge facing Connexus Energy, and how would you address both if you were elected?***

Connexus Energy is poised for many opportunities, one of which is maximizing the flexibility achieved through our new power supply contracts. As an independent utility, Connexus has the ability to build their own portfolio of generation assets needed to meet the state mandate of carbon-free energy by 2040. A challenge will be the selection and integration of a new CEO to lead our cooperative forward. Connexus has an outstanding workforce, which desires to serve member owners in the best way possible. If elected, I will continue to support new technology and methods to produce and use electricity responsibly. As a leader of the board, together we will carefully select the next CEO to lead Connexus.

#### ***What do you believe members want from their electric utility and what keeps them satisfied with Connexus Energy?***

In today's environment, Connexus members are still focused on reliability and affordability. We are also seeing more members with a passion for clean renewable energy, and more members choosing electricity over other forms of energy. Examples – self-generation, electric vehicles, lawn mowers, and power tools. Member satisfaction is extremely high due to reliability and affordable rates, which I will continue to work to safeguard.

What personally motivates you to serve on the Connexus Energy Board of Directors?

My personal motivation is driven by a love to learn new things, which can be applied to decisions made on behalf of Connexus members. This industry is rapidly changing with new technology and ever-increasing government mandates. I love to learn about the possibilities available to help solve issues before us. The joy and satisfaction of implementing new cost-effective solutions is rewarding.

#### ***What do you believe are the top three reasons you would be well-qualified to serve on the Connexus Energy Board of Directors?***

My tenure as director has enabled me to develop a broad knowledge of the utility business. I've gained an understanding of various aspects of Connexus – distribution, generation, and transmission of energy, statewide concerns, and governmental issues. I'm experienced and have developed working relationships with key stakeholders and legislators important to electric utility issues. As chair of the Connexus Energy Board, I've been pleased to use my leadership skills. Consistently working with my peers and dedicated staff, we are focused on bringing value to our member-owners on a daily basis.

#### ***Tell us what you believe are three of the most impactful member-owner benefits of the electric cooperative business structure?***

As a member-owner you have voting rights. Served by local governance, directors are your neighbors, elected by you, to represent you. This means your voice is heard and taken to heart. Another benefit of being a member-owner is that you truly are an owner. Rates are collected based on forecast of needs for the upcoming year. If there is any excess collected (margins), it is allocated and returned over time to you, the members. Third, as a cooperative, Connexus is community minded. We work to enhance living within the communities we serve. This is done through economic development and working with community leaders to plan for the needs of our members wherever they may live.

#### ***Regarding your skills as a potential director, tell us one of your strengths and how it would contribute to the Connexus Board and list one weakness needing development and your plan to address it.***

My biggest strength as a director is the knowledge I have of the electric utility industry and the challenges and opportunities on the near horizon. Using my leadership skills and working with the Board, CEO, and staff, I'm confident in continuing to bring value to our members.

Not necessarily a weakness, but an item needing constant attention, is the rapid movement/change in the industry. It needs to be addressed with continued learning and application. I consider myself a life-long learner and enjoy this challenge.