



This month's video acknowledges the start of the Minnesota State Legislature's 2026 regular session, overviews a few early bills of interest, and summarizes the 2026 APPA Legislative Rally.

1. Despite weather causing travel challenges, about 60 representatives of Minnesota utilities made it to Washington, DC, for the APPA Legislative Rally. They did a great job meeting in small groups with their members of the House, and in full-group meetings with Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar.
2. The top federal priorities this year are:
  - Preserving tax-exempt bonding
  - Supporting LIHEAP funding
  - Bringing back tax-exempt advance refunding bonds
  - Increasing the small-issuer threshold for financial institutions
  - Permitting reform
  - FEMA reform
  - Protecting local control of infrastructure
3. The 2027 APPA Rally runs February 28 through March 4. Please save those dates and look for hotel room information this fall.
4. The State legislative session started with a heartfelt moment welcoming Senator John Hoffman back after surviving a tragic attack by a gunman. But the day centered on a joint House–Senate memorial honoring Speaker Emeritus Melissa Hortman, her husband Mark, and their family dog, Gilbert.
5. Early bills of interest to municipal utilities include:
  - HF2986, a bill that commences a planning process for virtual power plants.
  - HF 3555, a bill that would authorize “plug-in solar.”
  - HF 3296, a bill that would exempt sales to some data centers from ECO mandates.
6. In an unusual move, at the end of a House Energy Committee meeting, Representative Dave Baker, a former member of the Wilmar Utility Commission, led a discussion on net metering reform. No bill, motions, or votes followed, and the stakeholders remain a long way apart on the particulars of reform.
7. When not working on specific bills, the MMUA Government Relations team keeps busy meeting with legislators, energy stakeholders, and groups like the Nuclear Alliance. We advocate for your priorities—and push back where needed.

Remember, what happens in St. Paul affects us all.

Throughout the session, watch for the *Capitol Letter*, a frequent update on the session as it progresses in real time, and consider attending the weekly GRAG virtual meetings on Friday mornings. To be added to the GRAG list, email [bblack@mmua.org](mailto:bblack@mmua.org). Learn more at [mmua.org](http://mmua.org).