

Dear House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Minnesota's equitable clean energy future will be a tapestry woven from commonsense, deliberate policy changes. I believe that four bills that you are considering today contain critically important changes to the current energy policy landscape that will help make solar energy more accessible and beneficial to customers throughout the state. By introducing the Solar for State Parks and Solar for Schools initiatives, the legislature rightly considers prioritizing certain solar customers and dedicating funding to make these projects a reality. The Solar for Schools initiative takes this prioritization one important step further by ensuring that 50 percent of the grant funding from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) is reserved for schools in low-income communities. That, combined with the thoughtful attention to integrating STEM curriculum for students and providing technical assistance to schools, makes this bill a compelling use of RDA funds. The other two bills - HF 1226 and the PV Demand Credit bill - provide critically important and overdue clarity to the statutory foundation of Minnesota's solar energy policy. HF 1226 removes language that was initially designed to support solar and wind energy's growth but is now counterproductive. It unnecessarily and unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The bill concerning the PV Demand Credit removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Instead of being seen as an asset in reducing peak energy demand, solar and energy storage customers in these service territories are billed onerous 'spot' demand charges that result in them being over-billed and undervalued. Rather than attempting to capture that full demand value through statute, the bill language tasks utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers. As somebody who cares deeply about a future free from climate injustices, somebody who believes in the job creation and local economic development potential of solar energy, and somebody who holds onto hope that our legislative leaders pass the policies we need to make the equitable clean energy future a reality, I urge you to move these bills out of Committee and to support their passage. I feel we need to also react and know how these will be disposed of when they expire. The land fill will solar wind wings is so ridiculous. So is the area's around where these are manufactured. Love solar but only if we have checked what will happen to our earth when disposed. That is just as big a thing in saving our earth. don't improve in one area to make worse in other.

Thank you,
Kay Thies
Lutsen, MN

Dear House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

I support bills that increase solar adoption and reduce barriers including Solar for State Parks and Solar for Schools and the other two. The other two bills - HF 1226 and the PV Demand Credit bill - provide critically important and overdue clarity to the statutory foundation of Minnesota's solar energy policy. HF 1226 removes language that was initially designed to support solar and wind energy's growth but is now counterproductive. It unnecessarily and unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The bill concerning the PV Demand Credit removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Instead of being seen as an asset in reducing peak energy demand, solar and energy storage customers in these service territories are billed onerous "spot" demand charges that result in them being over-billed and undervalued. Rather than attempting to capture that full demand value through statute, the bill language tasks utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers. I urge you to move these bills out of Committee and to support their passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Haudy Kazemi
Falcon Heights, MN

Dear House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

As someone whose job would not exist without the strong solar policies in Minnesota, I am very passionate about the solar bills in this year's legislative session. I urge you to hear the bills detailed below and help move them out of the Committees and along the legislative process to a vote. Help support stable, well-paid jobs for Minnesotans, a healthier future, and our economy here by supporting these bills! Minnesota's equitable clean energy future will be a tapestry woven from commonsense, deliberate policy changes. I believe that four bills that you are considering today contain critically important changes to the current energy policy landscape that will help make solar energy more accessible and beneficial to customers throughout the state. By introducing the Solar for State Parks and Solar for Schools initiatives, the legislature rightly considers prioritizing certain solar customers and dedicating funding to make these projects a reality. The Solar for Schools initiative takes this prioritization one important step further by ensuring that 50 percent of the grant funding from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) is reserved for schools in low-income communities. That, combined with the thoughtful attention to integrating STEM curriculum for students and providing technical assistance to schools, makes this bill a compelling use of RDA funds. The other two bills - HF 1226 and the PV Demand Credit bill - provide critically important and overdue clarity to the statutory foundation of Minnesota's solar energy policy. HF 1226 removes language that was initially designed to support solar and wind energy's growth but is now counterproductive. It unnecessarily and unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The bill concerning the PV Demand Credit removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Instead of being seen as an asset in reducing peak energy demand, solar and energy storage customers in these service territories are billed onerous 'spot' demand charges that result in them being over-billed and undervalued. Rather than attempting to capture that full demand value through statute, the bill language tasks utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers. As somebody who cares deeply about a future free from climate injustices, somebody who believes in the job creation and local economic development potential of solar energy, and somebody who holds onto hope that our legislative leaders pass the policies we need to make the equitable clean energy future a reality, I urge you to move these bills out of Committee and to support their passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Abbi Morgan
Lindstrom, MN

Dear House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

I am a proud homeowner with 28 solar panels that provide electricity to our home. More good news...It works very well. It feeds excess electricity into the line to supplement the electricity our rural coop provides. Minnesota's equitable clean energy future will be a tapestry woven from commonsense, deliberate policy changes. I believe that four bills that you are considering today contain critically important changes to the current energy policy landscape that will help make solar energy more accessible and beneficial to customers throughout the state. By introducing the Solar for State Parks and Solar for Schools initiatives, the legislature rightly considers prioritizing certain solar customers and dedicating funding to make these projects a reality. The Solar for Schools initiative takes this prioritization one important step further by ensuring that 50 percent of the grant funding from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) is reserved for schools in low-income communities. That, combined with the thoughtful attention to integrating STEM curriculum for students and providing technical assistance to schools, makes this bill a compelling use of RDA funds. The other two bills - HF 1226 and the PV Demand Credit bill - provide critically important and overdue clarity to the statutory foundation of Minnesota's solar energy policy. HF 1226 removes language that was initially designed to support solar and wind energy's growth but is now counterproductive. It unnecessarily and unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The bill concerning the PV Demand Credit removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Instead of being seen as an asset in reducing peak energy demand, solar and energy storage customers in these service territories are billed onerous 'spot' demand charges that result in them being over-billed and undervalued. Rather than attempting to capture that full demand value through statute, the bill language tasks utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers. As somebody who cares deeply about a future free from climate injustices, somebody who believes in the job creation and local economic development potential of solar energy, and somebody who holds onto hope that our legislative leaders pass the policies we need to make the equitable clean energy future a reality, I urge you to move these bills out of Committee and to support their passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Darwin Dyce
Ghent, MN

Dear House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

We urge your committee to pass the four Solar energy bills that you are considering today. Solar & Wind energy are cheaper than fossil fuel options, per US Dept of Energy. US costs of Superstorms & Disaster Recovery had (22) events in 2020 that each exceeded \$1 Billion. These Costs are incurred by burning fossil fuels; costs are growing exponentially. MN is harmed by I-35 flood closures & flood/drought crop damage, business loss, and insurance increases, plus health costs. 1 Fund these programs: Solar for State Parks and Solar for Schools Solar for Schools initiative gives 50% of the grant funding from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) which is reserved for schools in low-income communities; plus connect to STEM curriculum & future jobs in solar. 2 Clarify solar energy policy with HF 1226 and PV Demand Bill HF 1226 removes now counterproductive, outdated language. It unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while (methane) natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The PV Demand Credit bill removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Stop billing onerous 'spot' demand charges. Push utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
J Miller
Saint Paul, MN

Dear House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Hello! This is important so I hope you will take it to heart. Minnesota's equitable clean energy future will be a tapestry woven from commonsense, deliberate policy changes. I believe that four bills that you are considering today contain critically important changes to the current energy policy landscape that will help make solar energy more accessible and beneficial to customers throughout the state. By introducing the Solar for State Parks and Solar for Schools initiatives, the legislature rightly considers prioritizing certain solar customers and dedicating funding to make these projects a reality. The Solar for Schools initiative takes this prioritization one important step further by ensuring that 50 percent of the grant funding from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) is reserved for schools in low-income communities. That, combined with the thoughtful attention to integrating STEM curriculum for students and providing technical assistance to schools, makes this bill a compelling use of RDA funds. The other two bills - HF 1226 and the PV Demand Credit bill - provide critically important and overdue clarity to the statutory foundation of Minnesota's solar energy policy. HF 1226 removes language that was initially designed to support solar and wind energy's growth but is now counterproductive. It unnecessarily and unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The bill concerning the PV Demand Credit removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Instead of being seen as an asset in reducing peak energy demand, solar and energy storage customers in these service territories are billed onerous 'spot' demand charges that result in them being over-billed and undervalued. Rather than attempting to capture that full demand value through statute, the bill language tasks utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers. As somebody who cares deeply about a future free from climate injustices, somebody who believes in the job creation and local economic development potential of solar energy, and somebody who holds onto hope that our legislative leaders pass the policies we need to make the equitable clean energy future a reality, I urge you to move these bills out of Committee and to support their passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Nicole Vaughn
Minneapolis, MN

Dear House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Hi I'm Rickey and I care about the future of sustainability. I want to help by creating my own solar business. It would be great to see the government help out the solar industry because renewable energy is needed to save future generations from climate catastrophe. Minnesota's equitable clean energy future will be a tapestry woven from commonsense, deliberate policy changes. I believe that four bills that you are considering today contain critically important changes to the current energy policy landscape that will help make solar energy more accessible and beneficial to customers throughout the state. By introducing the Solar for State Parks and Solar for Schools initiatives, the legislature rightly considers prioritizing certain solar customers and dedicating funding to make these projects a reality. The Solar for Schools initiative takes this prioritization one important step further by ensuring that 50 percent of the grant funding from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) is reserved for schools in low-income communities. That, combined with the thoughtful attention to integrating STEM curriculum for students and providing technical assistance to schools, makes this bill a compelling use of RDA funds. The other two bills - HF 1226 and the PV Demand Credit bill - provide critically important and overdue clarity to the statutory foundation of Minnesota's solar energy policy. HF 1226 removes language that was initially designed to support solar and wind energy's growth but is now counterproductive. It unnecessarily and unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The bill concerning the PV Demand Credit removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Instead of being seen as an asset in reducing peak energy demand, solar and energy storage customers in these service territories are billed onerous 'spot' demand charges that result in them being over-billed and undervalued. Rather than attempting to capture that full demand value through statute, the bill language tasks utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers. As somebody who cares deeply about a future free from climate injustices, somebody who believes in the job creation and local economic development potential of solar energy, and somebody who holds onto hope that our legislative leaders pass the policies we need to make the equitable clean energy future a reality, I urge you to move these bills out of Committee and to support their passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Rickey Sipila
Britt, MN