



## Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

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March 18, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Hansen and Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

We write in strong support of House File 4350 and its proposal to add a statutory definition of “agrivoltaic system” to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 17.08. The bill establishes a statutory definition of “agrivoltaics,” which is crucial for steering solar development in Minnesota toward this beneficial dual-use approach to solar site management that will unlock significant economic value for Minnesota farmers, graziers, and rural communities.

As proposed in Subdivision 4a, an “agrivoltaic system” means “the simultaneous integration of farming, as defined in section 41C.02, subdivision 10, and solar energy generation on the same land.” The definition enables a voluntary, opt-in framework that encourages project owners to implement agrivoltaics practices without mandates.

In practice, defining Agrivoltaics will allow the private sector to experiment with and deliver stacked economic value streams from the same land solar is sited on:

- Encouraging solar projects to voluntarily partner with tenant farmers to make productive use of the land under and between panels rows to creates new and additional economic opportunities for farmers and others in rural communities.
- Preserves agricultural land and family farm viability by keeping land in active production while generating clean energy revenue.
- Creates new revenue streams through rotational or conservation grazing, and crop production, without requiring farmers to give up their land.
- Expands land access for farmers and graziers who lack capital or land inheritance pathways, broadening agricultural participation.
- Supports rural businesses and local tax revenue while creating jobs that coexist with—rather than displace—agriculture.

The proposed definition builds on Minnesota’s existing leadership in dual-use commercial solar in the form of pollinator-friendly habitat under Minn. State. 216B.1642 . According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Minnesota currently has more dual-use solar projects than any other state in the country. This bill expands and supports this work, through the inclusion of livestock grazing and crop production as dual use options for these sites. This addition offers potential for agrivoltaics to evolve into an even bigger win-win through partnerships between ground-mounted solar projects, local farmers, and conservation specialists.

We urge you to support HF 4350 and Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Whebbe  
Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs  
Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association