



Support for HF 257: Right to Go Solar for HOA homeowners

Feb. 10, 2021

Dear Members of the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee:

Solar United Neighbors of Minnesota supports House File 257 and urges passage of this bill which would make rooftop solar possible for thousands of homeowners in Homeowner Associations (HOA).

This legislation would give HOA homeowners the right to go solar on their own home while still allowing the HOA to apply reasonable restrictions.

Currently, HOA's can block installation of rooftop solar and often do. I am contacted at least one a month by an HOA homeowner who has been denied the opportunity to go solar on their own home by the HOA. Twenty-seven other states, including Iowa and Wisconsin, have state laws that limit HOA restrictions on solar. The impact of this bill is significant as one in four Minnesotans lives in one of the state's more than 7,700 HOA's. ([Homeowners associations still a barrier for some would-be solar customers](#) – Feb 11, 2021 Energy News Network).

Rooftop solar installations have benefits that many HOA homeowners want to take advantage of including:

- Advancing energy independence;
- Helping homeowners save on their monthly electric bill;
- Contributing to good-paying local jobs in the fastest-growing sector of the energy economy; and
- Contributing to the renewable energy that we need to address the climate crisis.

Solar United Neighbors of Minnesota represents a network of more than 4,000 solar owners and prospective solar owners, and we have facilitated more than 75 solar installations across the state. We believe that distributed rooftop solar is a critical way to create local jobs and build a cleaner, more resilient energy grid while providing Minnesota consumers greater energy choices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby King". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Bobby King

Minnesota Director

Solar United Neighbors

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