



**Minnesota Center for
Environmental Advocacy**

February 22, 2022

TO: House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
FROM: Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Coordinator, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
RE: HF 3222 - Innovative electric grid management project development

Chair Long and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota and thank you for the opportunity to testify on HF 3222. Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people. MCEA supports this grant from the renewable development account (RDA) to address Northfield's need for an innovative grid that allows for solar deployment, electric vehicle charging, and distributed energy resources.

As communities make the necessary transition to renewable energy across Minnesota, our electrical grid will need to be modernized to account for new power sources and added power demands. Our grid system was designed around large power plants, providing a one-way power flow through a system of wires. As more Minnesota residents take charge of their energy through renewable energy solutions, such as solar panels on the roof of their homes, our electrical grid will need to change and adapt to the new reality of multiple sources and additional power demands.

Northfield is one community that is facing this issue. They have more customers who want to invest in solar panels on their properties, but cannot reasonably do so with the grid in its current capacity. This program created by HF 3222 would create an innovative electric grid management system to better accommodate consumer demands for solar energy. This pilot program can blaze a trail for solutions that will be needed across the state, and is exactly the type of program intended to be supported by the RDA.

MCEA thanks Rep. Lippert for presenting this bill, and for beginning the necessary steps that our state needs for renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lovoll
Legislative Coordinator, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy