

## JANETTE DEAN

National & Regional Environmental Policy & Human Rights Advocate  
Caledonia, MN  
JanetteNoelle@gmail.com  
(507) 725-3012 Landline / (507) 500-0142 Cell

January 31, 2023

House Committee on Climate and Energy Finance and Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Letter of Support for [HF747](#) (Reyer) - Program established to award grants for installation of solar energy generating systems on public buildings, report required, and money appropriated.**

Dear Chair Patty Acomb, Vice Chair Larry Kraft & Committee Members:

I could not be happier that a 100% Clean Energy Bill ([House File 7](#)) for the State of Minnesota passed the Minnesota House of Representatives last week and should pass the Senate as well soon as [Senate File 4](#) which will require utilities to provide more carbon-free electricity that includes such important renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

The benefits of renewable energy, including solar, are emphasized on our own U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy on their current "*Renewable Energy*" page (see <https://www.energy.gov/eere/renewable-energy>):

"The advantages of renewable energy are numerous and affect the economy, environment, national security, and human health. Here are some of the benefits of using renewable energy in the United States:

- Enhanced reliability, security, and resilience of the nation's power grid
- Job creation throughout renewable energy industries
- Reduced carbon emissions and air pollution from energy production
- Increased U.S. energy independence
- Increased affordability, as many types of renewable energy are cost-competitive with traditional energy sources
- Expanded clean energy access for non-grid-connected or remote, coastal, or islanded communities."

"The United States is a resource-rich country with abundant renewable energy resources. The amount available is **100 times** that of the nation's annual electricity need."

In addition, an INFORUM article from just this December 16, 2022 shared that "The Minnesota Department of Commerce's annual solar report (<https://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/solar-fact-sheet-2022.pdf>) shows solar power is becoming a broader energy choice in nearly all aspects." (See: <https://www.inforum.com/news/minnesota/minnesota-solar-industry-forecasts-growth-as-capacity-consumption-continuously-climb>). That can continue, especially if we help step up the pace with more state support and prioritization.

Please pass HF747 to create a solar grant program for public buildings with as much grant money appropriated as possible so that beneficial solar energy can be more easily installed to power more of our public buildings in Minnesota.

Thank you,

*Janette Dean*

La Crescent High School Graduate; B.A. Political Science & Sociology – UNR / USC Alumna  
Sierra Club Wilderness Guardian member; MN350 Action member; Houston County DFL member