

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to siting solar generating systems; modifying siting prohibitions with
1.3 respect to prime farmland; requiring rulemaking.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **SITING SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS ON PRIME**
1.6 **FARMLAND.**

1.7 (a) The Public Utilities Commission must amend Minnesota Rules, section 7850.4400,
1.8 subpart 4, to allow the siting of a solar energy generating system on prime farmland that
1.9 meets any of the following conditions:

1.10 (1) the site has been identified as a sensitive groundwater area by the Department of
1.11 Natural Resources under Minnesota Statutes, section 103H.101;

1.12 (2) the owner of the solar energy generating system has entered into an agreement with
1.13 the Board of Soil and Water Resources committing the owner to comply with the provisions
1.14 of Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1642, by establishing on the site perennial vegetation
1.15 and foraging habitat beneficial to game birds, songbirds, and pollinators, and to report to
1.16 the board every three years on progress made toward establishing beneficial habitat; or

1.17 (3) the solar energy generating system is colocated with and does not disrupt the operation
1.18 of agricultural uses, including, but not limited to grazing and harvesting forage.

1.19 (b) The commission shall comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 14.389, in adopting
1.20 rules under this section.

1.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.