



## 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



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March 24, 2026

Co-Chair Rick Hansen  
Co-Chair Paul Anderson  
House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard., Room G3  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: MFU support for Agrivoltaic Definition in HF4350

Dear Co-Chair Hansen, Co-Chair Anderson, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share our support for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's work to create a statutory definition of 'agrivoltaics.' We believe that production agriculture—like managed grazing—collocated with solar presents a significant opportunity and that clear definition will help ensure that this this new industry works for our members.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. As demand for energy grows, we support policies that help farmers and other rural Minnesotans share the wealth created through clean energy generation, contributing to a more sustainable and distributed grid and economy. This means defending and promoting policies that promote more distributed, edge-of-field, and farmer-owned renewable energy projects. It also means thinking about how agriculture and solar can coexist and even thrive together. The University of Minnesota has long led in demonstrating how to graze livestock and even plant crops between solar panels. And today, we have members who are building their enterprises based on this model.

We appreciate MDA's work to provide a clear definition and believe this will help this emerging industry continue to develop in a way that benefits farmers. If you have any questions, please contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at [stu@mfu.org](mailto:stu@mfu.org) or (320) 232-2047 (C). Thank you for considering the needs and perspectives of Minnesota's farm families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Wertish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Wertish  
President, Minnesota Farmers Union