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CLEAR Energy Coalition

Advancing a Clean, Local,
Equitable, Affordable, and Reliable
Energy Future for Minnesota

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March 3, 2025

Testimony on House File 1738

Chair Swedzinski and House Energy Finance & Policy Committee Members,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition advocates for clean, affordable, and reliable energy for all Minnesotans, including local rooftop solar. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House File 1738, which would repeal the Renewable Development Account and make changes to the Solar Energy Production Incentive Program operated by Xcel Energy (Solar*Rewards).

The CLEAR Energy Coalition urges the Committee to oppose HF 1738.

The Minnesota Legislature established the Renewable Development Account in 1994 with payments from Xcel Energy in return for allowing the utility to store radioactive nuclear waste—effectively indefinitely—at its Prairie Island nuclear plant, and later, at its Monticello plant. Funds deposited in the Account have supported renewable energy projects in various parts of the state and have led to cleaner energy and economic development for Minnesota communities.

Similarly, the Solar*Rewards program has helped make it financially possible for many Minnesotans to go solar and contribute to our state's energy independence. This program is particularly important for low- and moderate-income families who want to install rooftop solar.

Instead of the changes offered in HF 1738, the CLEAR Energy Coalition encourages the Committee to explore other ways to help more Minnesota families benefit from local clean energy. This could include a refundable state solar tax credit for households who are served by other utilities and aren't currently eligible for Xcel's Solar*Rewards program, as proposed in [Senate File 441](#).

Thank you for your consideration,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition

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Sierra Club North Star Chapter
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