

April 1, 2024

Rep. Patty Acomb, Chair
Climate & Energy Policy & Finance Committee
State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN

Re: Sunrun support of HF 5171

Dear Chair Acomb & Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HF 5171, which would help expand SolarAPP+, an online permitting tool that greatly reduces red tape for home solar installations and saves money for municipalities. SolarAPP+ can help expand access to affordable home solar energy solutions.

The U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory created the Solar Automated Permit Processing (SolarAPP+) tool. This online permitting software is free to municipalities, and removes a resource-intensive and time-consuming review process by automatically determining compliance with safety and code criteria for a proposed home solar and battery system. Soft costs and delays can increase home solar system prices by up to \$7,000 per project.

Critically, cities and counties also benefit: freeing up important staff resources, saving taxpayer funds, and improving the citizens' experience and energy bill savings.

States like Colorado and California have provided similar support to encourage cities to adopt instant permitting solutions like SolarAPP+ - and it has shown real results. As of April 2024, more than 170 communities across the United States have adopted or are piloting the SolarAPP+ software, with more than 37,000 permits processed across the United States. In fact, Sunrun is seeing a dramatic improvement in cycle times in areas that use SolarAPP+, providing a 13-day reduction in the cycle times awaiting permits, saving customers and cities time and money.

Creating access to affordable clean energy has been Sunrun's motto from the beginning, and one step toward creating affordable solar energy includes reducing soft costs. The savings will also help Minnesota meet its clean energy goals even faster and while expanding access to all Minnesotans regardless of income-level.

Thank you for your consideration of HF 5171, and support of expanding solar access to all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



Amy Heart
Sr. Vice President of Policy