

To the House Climate and Energy Committee:

I am writing in support of House File 1262 that would give HOA homeowners like me the opportunity to go solar.

First, politically I am a Conservative with a Libertarian leaning. I think "climate change" is more of a forced narrative than an imminent threat. However, to me and my family, when it comes to the issue of having the freedom to implement solar on my single-family home (within an HOA), I strongly believe that this should receive unanimous bi-partisan support. This is about having the option for energy independence.

I grew up in Woodbury, and in 2011 my family moved back to Minnesota from Virginia. Just last year we moved from Cottage Grove to Woodbury so my children will be zoned to attend Woodbury High School where I teach and coach. While my wife and I are both educators in our school district, the low mortgage rates allowed us to purchase what we consider our dream home in March of 2021.

In December of 2021 our Xcel Energy bill was \$360. Then in January of 2022 it jumped 46% to \$525. This was a shock, especially after fairly mild December weather. This led me to research my options, and I reached out and received a proposal from iSolar. I wanted to proceed with the installation of solar panels, but was told by my HOA that while I could apply for project approval, at this point "all solar panel applications have been rejected based upon aesthetics." Since the application process is somewhat lengthy, I did not move forward believing that I would be wasting my time.

In our neighborhood Facebook community chat, there is a lot of support for solar panels, with the HOA being the sticking point for making these renewable upgrades.

I believe there is a clear basis for supporting this from all political angles:

- Installing solar panels will increase the value of the home.
- Practically moves our neighborhood and community to embrace renewable energy.
- Serves as a hedge against inflation and price spikes in the energy markets.

As a homeowner I will not be bothered if the homes in my neighborhood start to install solar panels. The "aesthetics" will not cause us to move out of our dream home and great neighborhood. However, should our energy bill increase 200-300% over the next couple of years, that financial strain would most likely force us out of our home.

This is a win-win and a slam dunk, practically and politically. Thank you for your consideration.

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