



February 23, 2026

Chair Patty Acomb, Chair Chris Swedzinski
Minnesota House of Representatives Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: RC 26-06795 (Kraft)

Chair Acomb, Chair Swedzinski and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum (MnCEF), I am writing to express our support of Bill 26-06795. Our organization champions secure, reliable, affordable, clean American energy, through an all-of-the-above grounded in principles of consumer choice, free markets and drives innovation across Minnesota.

At a time when the cost of nearly every aspect of daily life continues to rise, Minnesotans deserve access to simple, low-cost tools to manage their energy bills. This bill ensures that consumers can access plug-in solar technology without unnecessary regulatory barriers. Devices meeting safety certification standards are exempt from interconnection agreements, net metering requirements, and utility-imposed fees, conditions, approvals, or reporting requirements. That consumer protection language is particularly important, as it prevents utilities from creating indirect barriers to a product consumers are otherwise free to purchase and use. A typical 1,200-watt system is estimated to reduce a household's electricity use by up to 20%, saving an estimated \$350 per year.¹ This is the kind of straightforward, low-cost solution that empowers consumers to take control of their own energy costs.

This is a national movement with strong bipartisan support. Utah unanimously passed a substantially similar framework in 2025, and as of this session, at least 24 states have introduced plug-in solar legislation. Minnesota has an opportunity to be among the leaders. The principle is one we share: if a product is certified, safe, and operating at a scale that does not affect the grid, consumers should not need their utility's permission to use it.

MnCEF encourages you to support Bill 26-06795. This legislation empowers Minnesotans with a simple, low-cost tool to manage their own energy costs, strengthening energy affordability and consumer choice across the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel E. Stuckey".

Rachel Stuckey
Executive Director
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum

¹ Solar United Neighbors. (2026). What is plug-in solar (balcony solar)?
<https://solarunitedneighbors.org/resources/what-to-know-about-plug-in-solar/>

February 24, 2026

House Energy Finance and Policy Committee Revisor Draft 26-06795

Good afternoon, Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski, and members of the committee, my name is Deb Birgen, with Missouri River Energy Services (MRES). I am submitting this written testimony to express our concerns regarding revisor draft 26-06795, which pertains to plug-in solar photovoltaic devices, and to provide suggestions for improvement.

Under this bill, owners of plug-in-solar photovoltaic devices are not required to go through any approval, interconnection, or notification process with the local electric utility. We are concerned that the legislation does not adequately address the potential dangers of these devices. Without the proper safety equipment, a plug-in system can fail to shut down properly during a power outage. In this case, the unit could energize a downed or de-energized power line. This poses a fatal risk to utility workers who would be working on what they assume is a de-energized line. We suggest making several changes to address these concerns:

1. Adopt an Inspection Requirement.

Although there are many respected solar vendors in Minnesota, there are also unscrupulous ones. As recently as 2024, Minnesota Attorney General Ellison announced settlements with four solar energy installers and advertisers for deceptive practices. Given the potential dangers, we believe that the plug-in units should be inspected by the utility or a licensed electrician to verify the unit is equipped with the proper controls to prevent energizing the system.

2. Local Utilities should be notified.

Even if a unit is advertised as having proper controls to prevent back feed into the distribution system, errors and defects do occur. So, notification to the utility is needed. This would allow utility workers to know of the existence of such units, so that they can take adequate measures to maintain safety. Lack of awareness that there is electric generation behind the meter poses a great risk to lineworkers. A simple notification requirement goes a long way towards keeping lineworkers from being critically or fatally injured.

3. Require certain safety features in the devices

We urge the author to also include the requirement that these devices include a feature that prevents the solar system from energizing the structure's electrical system or the distribution system during a power outage. This is consistent with legislation that was passed in Utah last year.

In summary, we are not opposed to the adoption of this equipment in Minnesota, but we also believe that any legislation authorizing it must contain necessary protections for local utility workers and the nearby grid. Therefore, we respectfully request that the author incorporate provisions regarding safety equipment, inspection, and notification procedures into this legislation.

Thank you.

February 24, 2026

Minnesota House

Energy Finance and Policy Committee
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: REVISOR 26-06795 – Plug-in Solar

Dear Chair Acomb and Members of the Committee,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota (CCL MN) is a non-partisan, non-profit volunteer driven advocacy organization working to advance climate, clean energy and conservation solutions. I write today on behalf of our chapters and thousands of volunteers across Minnesota. In order to reduce emissions at the speed and scale required to protect our health, communities and the environment, CCL MN supports policies that allow all low-carbon energy technologies (bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, solar, wind, etc.) to be considered fairly on their merits.

Today I submit this testimony in support of plug-in solar systems in Minnesota to help households manage rising electricity bills at no public cost. Plug-in systems are small and can be placed on balconies, patios, in backyards, or just about any small space. Plug-in solar is an option for renters and homeowners alike in nearly every housing situation.

Right now, in Germany, four million of these systems are in use with no major safety incidents reported over a decade of experience. Plug-in solar systems that are certified by UL or an equivalent national testing laboratory are safe and rigorous analysis shows that they have no net impact on the grid.

As a national organization Citizens' Climate Lobby is aware of growing bipartisan support for plug-in solar. At least 25 states have already or will introduce legislation to follow Utah's lead on plug-in solar. CCL MN hopes Minnesota legislators can also find common ground to support plug-in solar providing renters and homeowners another option to reduce energy costs across our great state.

Sincerely,
Greg Jason
CCL MN Statewide Team Leader



February 23, 2026

Minnesota House of Representatives

Energy, Finance, and Policy Committee

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Acomb and Swedzinski and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Efficient Builders Coalition (Minnesota EBC) is a group of builders, designers, and other industry professionals committed to practical, affordable, and climate forward solutions that advance efficiency and building performance in Minnesota.

We are a growing aggregation of over 55 practitioners from across the state that are actively building and designing to the highest levels of performance, and pushing the boundaries of what buildings can be.

The Minnesota Efficient Builders Coalition respectfully submits this letter to express our support for Revisor Code 26-06795, a bill regulating the installation and operation of plug-in solar photovoltaic devices.

As practitioners committed to energy efficient building, we support practical homeowner driven solutions that reduce emissions, have grid benefits and create more direct pathways to onsite power production.

Plug-in ready photovoltaic systems will allow for rapid deployment of distributed solar in small packages and give homeowners a tool to help mitigate their monthly energy bills, all while simultaneously providing modest backup and reducing emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Danny Desjarlais

Co-Chair /

Minnesota Efficient Builders Coalition (MnEBC)



CLEAR ENERGY COALITION

BLACK VISIONS • COOPERATIVE ENERGY FUTURES • COMMUNITY POWER
VOTE SOLAR • INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE • SIERRA CLUB
SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS • MINNESOTA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

CLEAR Coalition

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

Contact: Katie Kienbaum
kkienbaum@ilsr.org

February 23, 2026

RE: Revisor Code 26-06795 (Kraft) - Plug-in Solar

Co-Chair Acomb, Co-Chair Swedzinski, and Members of the House Energy Committee,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition is testifying in support of Revisor Code 26-06795, which would enable the use of plug-in solar photovoltaic devices in Minnesota. Our coalition advocates for clean, affordable, and reliable energy for all Minnesotans, including the use of local solar resources. We believe this legislation will expand access to the benefits and cost-savings of solar energy to more Minnesotans, including low-income families, renters, and rural businesses.

Plug-in solar is more affordable than traditional rooftop solar installations, and it doesn't require suitable roof space. This lets renters and others who can't install rooftop solar lower their electricity costs, while reducing strain on the grid and addressing rising energy demands, saving money for all utility customers.

Furthermore, plug-in solar panels can be deployed quickly, since they would not be subject to a potentially lengthy and costly interconnection process with the local electric utility. The speed of plug-in solar makes it a helpful strategy to help meet Minnesota's requirement of 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040.

Plug-in solar is safe and technically feasible, and it is already a mainstream — and popular — option in other countries, such as Germany.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to include more Minnesotans in the benefits of the clean energy transition.

Sincerely,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition

Black Visions
Cooperative Energy Futures
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Solar United Neighbors

Community Power
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Vote Solar



Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

Co-Chair Patty Acomb
House Energy Finance & Policy Committee
February 24th, 2026

Co-Chair Acomb and Committee members,

The Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA) is a nonprofit association of over 150 members that represents Minnesota's solar and storage industry. Our broad membership ranges from rooftop installers to non-profit organizations, manufacturers, and many others, all of whom collectively employ over 5,000 Minnesotans.

We write today in support of Representative Larry Kraft's bill enabling plug-in solar photovoltaic devices (Revisor 26-06795, unnumbered at time of submission) in Minnesota. Plug-in solar, by simply connecting to a household outlet under the supervision of an electrician, makes clean energy and bill savings accessible to thousands of Minnesotans, at a low upfront cost. The bill will enable these savings and access by:

- Establishing standards for the safe operation of plug-in solar devices under OSHA and UL certifications;
- Exempting these facilities from costly and lengthy interconnection processes, since they do not interact with or export to a utility system;
- Ensuring that more tools to save on energy bills and reduce climate and energy burden are accessible to lower-income Minnesotans and those who rent their homes.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and of our testimony. MnSEIA and our members look forward to the new market opportunity this bill will enable, better empowering all Minnesotans to participate in the clean energy transition and save on their energy bills.

Sincere regards,

/s/ David Moberg
Manager of Government Affairs
MnSEIA
(651) 328-7866
dmoberg@mnseia.org