

Dear Committee Advisor Mike Molzahn,

Solar is truly the best way to power our future. It is also the best way to create jobs today.

Two bills being reviewed today - HF 1226 and the PV Demand Credit bill - provide critically important and overdue clarity to the statutory foundation of Minnesota's solar energy policy. HF 1226 removes language that was initially designed to support solar and wind energy's growth but is now counterproductive. It unnecessarily and unfairly pits smaller solar projects against larger projects - while natural gas projects get to bid into the market at higher rates. The bill concerning the PV Demand Credit removes specific barriers and burdens currently facing solar customers in two utilities: Otter Tail and Minnesota Power. Instead of being seen as an asset in reducing peak energy demand, solar and energy storage customers in these service territories are billed onerous "spot" demand charges that result in them being over-billed and undervalued. Rather than attempting to capture that full demand value through statute, the bill language tasks utilities to work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to find a fairer and more accurate way to value their solar customers.

As somebody who cares deeply about how we leave the environment for our children, I urge you to move these bills out of Committee and to support their passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Keenan

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