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**March 22, 2022**

Minnesota House of Representatives

Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee

State Office Building

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for additional funding for Solar\*Rewards and creation of an energy storage incentive

Dear Chair Long and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of HF 4402 to increase funding for the Solar\*Rewards program and create an energy storage incentive program. We support this bill as it provides additional funding for this popular program which expands customer access and provides the certainty needed for planning and development of residential and small commercial solar.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonprofit organization representing the business voice of clean energy in Minnesota. We work to help educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to growing and strengthening Minnesota's clean energy business ecosystem. Our membership consists of more than 40 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations which employ thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Chair Long and Committee Members for their leadership to advance this important legislation. As the federal solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) begins to phase down from the current 26% in 2022 to 22% in 2023 before dropping to 0% in 2024 for residential solar systems and 10% for commercial and utility-scale solar systems, securing additional funding and program years for Solar\*Rewards will help support thousands of solar jobs and expand the benefits for homes and businesses in Minnesota. Providing certainty in the continuance of this important funding program is vital for solar installers and consumers.

The innovative energy storage incentive program is the next step for assisting homeowners looking to expand their clean energy system with small-scale, behind-the-meter storage. The Solar\*Rewards program has been extremely successful in encouraging solar growth and this program will help the energy storage market expand.

Today, 55,300 Minnesotans are employed in well-paying clean energy jobs with more than 4,400 jobs in solar.<sup>1</sup> The Solar\*Rewards program plays a crucial role in assisting residential and small business customers who are contemplating turning toward solar to help meet their energy needs as well as increase their energy independence. As Minnesota looks to meet our ambitious clean energy goals,

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 Clean Jobs Midwest report, <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>



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these incentive programs are an important tool to help make clean energy accessible to more energy consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support for this bill and we look forward to its passage. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Damian", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Damian

Director of Government Affairs

[gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org](mailto:gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org)