

March 19, 2023

Dear Labor Committee Administrator, Travis Reese,

I am a resident of Duluth, a believer of climate change and investor in solar power. In 2017 I contracted with Able Energy to put solar panels on our home. We made a good effort to research contractors to the best of our ability and thought we were making a good choice. Able Energy had completed a contract with the city of Duluth and came recommended from city staff. Almost immediately though, after payment was sent for the project, we started to see our investment go wrong. The contractor didn't follow through with ANY of the agreed upon service. We, and many other MN residents, ended up losing many thousands of dollars as the contractor went bankrupt. This contractor has subsequently been convicted of theft by swindle, given a 5 year probation and required to pay restitution of only \$200 a month. This has been a years long legal process and we don't expect to recover any of our lost investment.

This bill, #HF2164 Including solar installers in contractor recovery fund, could help future MN residents from experiencing the losses that we have. Also, residents having assurance that their investments in solar would be good investments and serve them well into the future could be good for the solar industry and the environment as we look to the future end of fossil fuels.

Thank you for considering and approving this bill.

Shawn Wentz  
Duluth, Minnesota