



414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

April 2, 2024

Representative Patty Acomb  
593 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55115

RE: HF 5097 – Interconnection Process

Dear Chair Acomb,

Thank you for your leadership and your continued work to improve the DER interconnection process in Minnesota. We think that the process outlined in your bill is a positive step in finding a more equitable process for all customers.

As we have discussed, our primary concern is ensuring that the Legislative direction given to regulators is specific enough to ensure that necessary and prudently incurred costs incurred to improve and upgrade the distribution system will be recovered. The process outlined in the bill requires the PUC to determine how much of a proposed upgrade cost must be paid for by developers and at the same time establishes a cap on the amount of cost that can be collected from utility customers. However, if those two numbers do not add up to 100% of the upgrade cost, then there is a risk that costs would not be fully recovered, and the work may not get done.

We also hope that there will be more opportunity to talk with our regulators about the proposed Ombudsperson. We appreciate the intent of this proposal but think that we could improve upon the language by gathering additional information about how the existing processes would interact with this new position.

Again, we think that this framework, modeled on an approach taken by the state of New York, has great promise to move Minnesota's current system forward and we thank you for your continued engagement on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

BRIA SHEA  
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, PLANNING AND POLICY