



March 29, 2022

Re: Support of SF4089 & SF4119

Chair Senjem and committee members,

Vote Solar is a non-profit advocacy policy organization working to repower our communities with sunshine and build a thriving clean economy with affordable solar energy for all. I am the Midwest Regional Director for Vote Solar and a lifelong resident of Minnesota, and I am writing in support of SF 4089 – Solar for Schools program appropriation– and SF4119 – Solar energy production incentive program extension & establishing an energy storage incentive program.

The Solar on Schools program is a huge victory for Minnesota’s children, economic development, and a clean energy future. Schools have high energy costs and ample space for solar energy systems but are often left out of the solar development conversation due to limited discretionary funding. The Solar on Schools program is bringing renewable energy to Minnesota communities and cutting energy costs for school districts that often operate on tight budgets. The additional funds proposed in SF4089 will increase installations of solar on schools and further contribute to reduced energy burden, additional educational opportunities, and increased environmental benefits – all wins across the board for Minnesota’s communities.

Energy storage adoption is vital in the pursuit of a just and equitable decarbonized future. Solar plus storage applications enhance the resiliency of the electric grid and potentially decrease the need for costly upgrades to the distribution system. If structured and incentivized appropriately, solar plus storage applications can also provide essential health, economic, and resiliency benefits to historically marginalized communities. The energy storage incentive framework outlined in SF4119 is an important step towards further advancing clean, distributed, equitable energy along with strengthening the reliability and resiliency of the grid.

I urge committee members to support SF4089 and SF4119. Together we can create a clean energy future that supports Minnesota’s communities and provides benefits to individuals most affected by climate change, energy inequity, and environmental injustice.

**Jenna Warmuth** | Midwest Regional Director | She/Her/Hers  
[jwarmuth@votesolar.org](mailto:jwarmuth@votesolar.org) | [218.969.5976](tel:218.969.5976)

**VOTE SOLAR**  
[www.votesolar.org](http://www.votesolar.org)