

February 27, 2023

Minnesota State Senate
Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 1003, Preventing homeowners associations from banning rooftop solar

Dear Chair Frentz, Senator Coleman, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of SF1003, which aims to prevent homeowners associations (HOA) from banning solar on single-family homes. As solar photovoltaic systems have become more affordable and a popular way for many homeowners to take control of their energy bills, increase energy resiliency, and reduce their carbon footprint, many homeowners have run into complete bans or excessive restrictions from homeowners associations. This bill is a commonsense way to empower property owners while still allowing HOAs to have reasonable limits.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership consists of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

As Minnesota moves to 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040, distributed generation like rooftop solar will play a key role in the transition. Rooftop solar brings additional value by generating power where it is consumed – not requiring expensive transmission lines to bring power from far away – and adds resiliency, which allows the grid to be more nimble and recover faster from outages. Removing additional and unnecessary barriers to the continued development of Minnesota's rooftop solar market has broad benefits for Minnesotans and the clean energy business community.

The solar industry employs nearly 5,000¹ Minnesotans, and the sector grew nearly 10% last year significantly faster than the state average job growth. Statewide, 58,000 Minnesotans are employed in the clean energy economy with 69% of this workforce comprised of small businesses with fewer than 20 individuals. Limiting onerous solar restrictions on homeowners by HOAs will remove unnecessary market barriers for these private transactions between small businesses and homeowners.

We thank Sen. Coleman for bringing this proposal forward and we thank Chair Frentz for the opportunity to share our support for this bill. We look forward to its passage. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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Director of Government Affairs
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¹ 2022 Clean Jobs Midwest Report: <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>