



February 24, 2023

Sen. Nick Frentz, Chair
Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum (MnCEF), a non-profit education and advocacy organization that promotes an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy for Minnesota. We encourage policymakers to embrace innovations in clean and affordable energy based on our conservative principles such as economic growth, property rights, personal stewardship, job growth, and national security. I am writing to you today to share MnCEF’s support for Senator Coleman’s bill, SF 1003, ensuring homeowners’ associations cannot prohibit homeowners from installing of rooftop solar systems.

Competitive, market-driven solutions and removing regulatory barriers will be key to a long-term affordable and stable energy grid. Minnesotans agree: in our 2022 Minnesota Statewide Clean Energy Poll, 71% of voters stated that they prefer competitive approaches over mandates or taxes when it comes to increasing clean energy, and 80% of voters said it is important to stop local barriers like HOAs from putting unreasonable restrictions on installing rooftop solar.

We believe landowners and homeowners should be able to decide what to do with their land and homes, and this bill gives them the freedom to do so. Removing this barrier will benefit not only the individual homeowners installing these systems, but the broader energy grid as well, getting more renewable energy online. Homeowners can reduce their energy bills and even allow excess power generated by their solar energy systems to go to the grid.

While utility-scale renewable energy is important, individuals will also need to be a part of the solution, and this bill gets us closer to that goal, without mandates. As advancements in technology continue to improve existing energy sources and create new ones, market demand for clean energy will only continue to increase. It will be crucial that we also reduce barriers to getting these online in the future.

We urge you to support SF 1003 and allow this important study to move forward. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to continuing to work toward a cleaner and more reliable energy grid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kayla Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kayla Christensen
Executive Director
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum