

March 15, 2023

Minnesota State Senate
Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate
Minnesota Senate Building, 1150
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 1404, Solar Grant Program: Public Buildings

Dear Chair Frentz, Senator Port, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of SF1404 for a solar on public buildings grant program to be established in the Department of Commerce. We support this bill because it will create new market opportunities for Minnesota's solar industry, decrease energy costs for public buildings, and assist local governments in reaching their climate goals.

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 is comprised 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.

We thank Sen. Port for authoring this bill and Chair Frentz for hearing it in committee. A solar grant program will bring jobs and economic activity to the local community, strengthens the electrical grid by adding distributed energy resources to Minnesota's power mix, and helps local units of government meet their clean energy goals.

Moreover, there are many benefits local governments will gain because of solar on public buildings. Cost savings from solar will allow for local governments to address other building upgrades that promote energy efficiency to further decarbonize buildings. The Inflation Reduction Act's 10 year extension of the solar tax credit and the change allowing local units of government to take advantage of these credits, means now is the perfect time to create a program like this proposal.

Thank you for this 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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