

March 15, 2023

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

RE: Senate File 2757

Dear Chair Frentz, Senator McEwen, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today regarding SF2757, a bill encouraging the development of a combination of wind and solar distributed generation (DG) systems placed in rural communities across the state. These hybrid renewable systems provide cost-effective, stable energy in a way that enhances grid stability and reliability, and is designed to add energy storage when the timing is right.

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 will play a key role in the transition. Hybrid wind, solar, and storage facilities distributed around the grid – not requiring expensive transmission lines to bring power from far away – will add resiliency, which allows the grid to be more nimble and recover faster from outages. This bill will create cost certainty for developers as they create and build these projects across the state. By creating certainty for businesses, the state is crafting smart policy that will encourage increased development and deployment of clean energy resources across our electrical grid.

Today, almost 58,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy with over 8,200 of those jobs in renewable energy.<sup>1</sup> Allowing for more distributed energy options to get built more quickly will improve the reliability of the state's congested grid, allow for greater investment in clean energy solutions of all scales, continue to create good-paying jobs, and best yet – these solutions can be implemented immediately without the need to wait for transmission infrastructure to be built.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts on this proposal. CEEM and our member businesses are ready to engage and help move Minnesota toward a prosperous, clean energy future.

Sincerely,



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