

03.21.2023

Dear Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee of the 93rd Legislature:

I am writing in support of SF 2688, regarding solar gardens.

This purpose of this statute is increasing maximum capacity of community solar gardens, removing location restriction, and authorizing a new type of solar garden.

I am in support of this program as it has been successful already and helps bring folks like me as a subscriber into the solar economy. I chose to join US Solar about 3 years ago because it was important for me to financially support clean energy and this was a clear way for me to be involved without needing to purchase my own solar panels. At the time I joined US Solar, I was living in an apartment, so even as a renter, I could support a local solar garden! Now I am a home owner in St. Louis Park (with my husband, David Heinrich) and we continue to be members of US Solar, which we feel good about supporting. I recently learned that the capacity for involvement in solar communities in certain parts of Minnesota is dwindling due to geographic restrictions. It would be truly disappointing if I was no longer able to participate in a solar garden like US Solar.

We would like to see these solar programs grow so that more Minnesotans can participate in and directly share in the economic value created by solar gardens. Other states around the country have followed Minnesota in adopting a community solar policy, but without the arbitrary geographic restrictions that effectively prevent program access by Minnesotans in certain parts of the state.

I ask you to please support this legislation so that Minnesota can continue to lead the solar energy movement and expand access to solar gardens in our state. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Heinrich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Natalie Heinrich
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