

Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee

Hello, and let me introduce myself.

I am a proud Minnesotan who is subscribed to a solar garden.

I have benefitted from this solar garden in knowing that I am helping the fight in clean energy. The energy savings I receive isn't a ton of money, but the few dollars I save, I put right back into the Minnesota economy. I am not naive to the fact that we still need coal to fuel our establishments, especially up here in the northern countries, but we can still cut down a little to help not only our fellow Minnesotans, but the only planet we live on, Earth. I, personally would like to see this program grow. This would allow more subscribers to help with Minnesota's economic growth.

I understand that other pro-solar states have followed Minnesota in adopting a community solar policy, but without the arbitrary geographic restrictions that effectively prevent program access by Minnesota subscribers.

I have seen, in Florida, an actual community dependent on solar only. It is called Babcock Ranch. It powers 2,000 homes, plus a school and health care center. When hurricane Ian hit, it was left virtually unscathed. That town still had electricity, water and internet. What happens when we, in Minnesota, have a blizzard? Downed power lines, hundreds of thousands of people with no electricity, for days, even weeks.

Of course in Minnesota, totally dependent on solar is not viable, it can still cut down on energy that is not clean.

Why is everyone so gung-ho on electric vehicles? Because they want clean energy! Well, isn't that what a solar garden does?

Isn't the President of the United States pushing for cleaner energy?

Doesn't this bill basically tell him that we as a state do not care what he wants?

Let's look at some facts:

1. You used to have to be a homeowner with a perfect roof to have solar availability. Not to mention the costs involved, but what about resale value? You could imagine the potential home buyers that see that and would turn away. With a community solar

garden, that no longer is a problem.

2. Our cost of electricity should not be dependent on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, but it is. Community solar gardens keep money in the local economy and reduce our exposure to global commodity price shocks.

3. Rural landowners benefit from this, providing a steady income during down crop years or bad weather, which we have had in the last few years. This helps landowners who participate in community solar gardens to stay afloat and not lose their land.

4. Upgrades are paid by the developers of the solar gardens, not by the state, to upgrade our aging electrical infrastructure. This helps our rural Minnesotans to have reliable electricity.

5. Community solar gardens produce approximately enough clean electricity to power 175,000 homes. This equals approximately 2 billion pounds of coal from being burned.

6. Community solar gardens also are a bee friendly habitat, and doesn't Minnesota pride itself on being a nature friendly state?

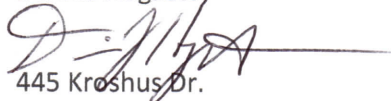
7. Minnesota also gets a portion of this community solar garden in approximately \$3 million in annual state employment taxes, not to mention the \$19 million in tax revenue.

Lastly, I would just like to say, when looking at this bill, don't do what the big electrical companies want you to do, but what we, the people who you are working for would like you to do. Keep the community solar gardens alive and thriving, so ALL Minnesotans can benefit from this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I hope you will vote in the people's favor.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hogsett

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Hogsett", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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