

Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

My name is Craig Pether and I have been a community solar subscriber since 2019. Participating in the community solar program is important to me as it allows me to participate in the green energy transition without having to put expensive solar panels on my home. I am writing in support of SF2688 as it includes necessary changes to support the community solar program in Minnesota going forward. I live in Hennepin County and many of my neighbors are unable to subscribe to get the benefits I see because of the contiguous county restriction. The changes in the bill are necessary to make the program more accessible so that the benefits of the program can be spread more equitably across the state.

Every month I see savings on my electricity bill I would not otherwise see without my subscription to my community solar garden, and it is important that others not in a position to invest in solar panels themselves are not left behind as the state moves forward with more clean energy. Every person in Minnesota should have the same opportunities to participate and directly share in the economic value created by investments in renewable energy.

I'm proud to be a subscriber to solar energy and I understand that other states have followed Minnesota's example by creating similar community solar programs, but without the arbitrary geographic restrictions we have in Minnesota. This is why I encourage you to vote in favor of SF2688 so we can better align our program in Minnesota both with other states and with our values by being more inclusive to all. Thank you for your time and consideration,



Craig Pether

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