



March 28, 2023

To whom it may concern –

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) is the national trade organization focused on democratizing solar energy by creating a more competitive, distributed, customer-centric electric grid through access to community solar. We have over 115 members and together we have built over 5.5 GW of community solar in 20 states providing bill savings to over 1 million customers.

We'd like to thank Sen. Frenzt for his leadership in supporting distributed solar and the important role it should play in the state's energy mix, and for acknowledging that the community solar gardens (CSG) program needs to be modernized to better conform with national standards.

That said, we do object to SF 2847 because it would sunset the CSG program and severely limit low-income community solar at a time when Minnesota needs to be doing more to advance energy equity and ensure all Minnesotans benefit from the clean energy transition.

In fact, nationally, Democrats are doubling down on community solar as a tool to achieve President Biden's Justice 40 goals. Last year the Biden Administration announced [a goal of providing 5 million low-moderate income Americans access to community solar](#) by 2030 and the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act [provides billions of dollars in state incentives](#) to encourage deployment of community solar programs. The landmark climate legislation specifically includes a \$7 Billion competitive grant to states to scale community solar projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities and low income "adders" for the investment tax credits, both time-limited programs.

Minnesota used to lead the country in community solar, but unfortunately after years of neglect, the CSG program has fallen behind and the state stands to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in free federal incentives that could be used to help provide low-moderate-income Minnesotans the bill relief they desperately need.

CCSA's acknowledges that SF 2847 takes a couple small steps to update the community solar program and help bring it in alignment with national best practices, but it doesn't go nearly far enough and severely limits the program's size, scope and financeability.

As codified in the state's new 100% clean energy goal the electric system is going through a once in a generation transformation and maintaining a robust and successful community solar program is a critical element to ensure there are equitable opportunities for individual customers to directly participate in that transformation.

This is not the time to get rid of Minnesota's community solar program. This is the time to make holistic reforms to modernize the community solar program with a greater focus on equity and access and to ensure as many LMI customers can benefit from the clean energy transition as possible.

We look forward to working with Sen. Frentz, his staff, and other stakeholders to further refine the proposed changes to the community solar program and to create a policy that is right for Minnesota.

Signature: Kevin Cray

Name: Kevin Cray

Title: Senior Regional Director Policy and Government Affairs

Party: Coalition for Community Solar Access

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