



Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

March 12, 2024

Senator Nick Frentz, Chair
Energy, Utilities, Environment, & Climate Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN

Re: MnSEIA's support of S.F. 4784

Dear Senator Frentz & Committee Members,

MnSEIA is a 501(c)(6) trade organization. We are completely funded, driven, and directed by a force of 165 member companies working within and throughout the solar and energy storage industries. Our members include non-profits, electric utilities, state agencies, engineering companies, financial institutions, law firms, and developers and installers of solar energy projects ranging from small electrical contractors, to large, utility-scale developers.

Our members view their work as a key and vital partnership to the state in deploying clean, reliable, and affordable energy to Minnesotans. This is why we work to ensure that Minnesota's policy and regulatory landscapes enable the financing and development of solar and energy storage projects of all scales. Without predictable and stable public policies, these clean energy projects become extremely risky and difficult to develop successfully.

MnSEIA believes that a diverse portfolio of clean energy solutions is required to reach the clean energy future the legislature has directed. With each level and scale of solar and energy storage developments come different benefits, different costs, different risks, different opposition and support, and different challenges. A mix of all clean energy technologies is important to MnSEIA members and is the best way to achieve a robust, Minnesota-based clean energy economy that competes within national and international markets.

We support S.F. 4784 to streamline the permitting process for large transmission-side clean energy projects. Whatever we can do to expedite the permitting and construction process and energize more solar and energy storage quicker, the better. The better for our economy, the better for our environment, and

the better for Minnesotans who will benefit as participants and partners in our clean energy transition.

Small and mid-scale, distributed energy resources will be a vital tool in expediting clean energy deployment, but face their own sets of challenges and barriers. We look forward to working with the legislature and advocacy partners to ensure permitting reforms and interconnection policies exist to advance those distribution-side clean energy projects—including the ones operated by Minnesota's electric cooperatives.

We thank Senator Frentz for his leadership on this issue and look forward to this bill being signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Logan O'Grady', with a stylized, flowing script.

Logan O'Grady

Executive Director

Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA)

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