



Re: SF 1142
March 7, 2025

Chair Frentz and members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

We write on behalf of the DFL Environmental Caucus. Our mission is to educate and mobilize the citizens of Minnesota to address the climate crisis and to protect, preserve, and restore the natural environment. **We oppose SF1142 because net metering benefits all of us.**

Solar means healthier air and less climate warming gases.

Giving rural cooperative members an incentive to put solar on their roofs helps them justify the expense, and allows them to receive some financial benefit from their investment. If this causes their neighbors to pay a bit more so all can reap the benefits of clean, renewable solar energy it is well worth it. This also helps support this important and fledgling residential solar industry. Please take into account that every solar installation feeding energy into our grid reduces the need for fossil fuel generating plants that not only generate climate warming greenhouse gases, but also gases and particulates that cause smog. The [NIH reports](#) that:

Uptake of primary and secondary pollutants of smog is responsible for several deleterious diseases of which respiratory disorders, cardiovascular dysfunction, neurological disorders, and cancer are discussed here. Children and pregnant women are more prone to the hazards of smog.

A [2022 MDH report](#) called Breathe of Life documents the health impact of polluted air.

Air pollution played a role in 10% of all deaths in the metro area and in nearly 500 hospitalizations and emergency room visits for heart and lung problems... Meanwhile, in Greater Minnesota, air pollution played a role in: 8% of all deaths in Duluth and about 13 hospitalizations and emergency room visits, 10% of all deaths in Rochester and about 20 hospitalizations and emergency room visits, 8% of all deaths in St. Cloud and about 15 hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

Solar helps us reach 100% carbon free electricity by 2040. Minnesotans are proud to be one of 21 states to require 100% carbon free electricity by 2040. We would benefit greatly if this body started hearing bills that will help rather than hinder us from meeting that goal.

Veda Kanitz, Greg Laden, Cochairs
DFLEC Legislative Committee
Cc. Megan Bond, DFLEC Chair