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The Honorable Nick Frentz
Chair, Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns regarding Senate File 1142.

Net metering is a longstanding policy framework that has played a critical role in spurring the development of a homegrown Minnesota solar industry – fostering job growth and economic development across the state while facilitating individual businesses and residents to achieve their clean energy goals and meaningfully contribute to emissions reduction. Minnesota's existing network of solar installers are testament to the long-term success of net metering in achieving its public policy purpose.

As clean energy advocates working to achieve equitable decarbonization across the economy, Fresh Energy is firmly committed to ensuring that energy remains affordable for all Minnesotans. Continuing to re-evaluate the efficacy of existing policies for maintaining affordability as we decarbonize is both prudent and necessary, and we share those goals with the proponents of Senate File 1142.

However, we also recognize that Minnesota's solar industry is currently experiencing a period of regulatory uncertainty, with tariffs on solar products and potential federal policy changes making the predictability and stability of established policy frameworks particularly important. We additionally encourage policymakers to work collaboratively with solar stakeholders to ensure that project viability and continued industry stability are prioritized in any policy conversations that continue in this and future legislative sessions.

As such, we suggest a careful and inclusive approach to considering any potential changes to Minnesota's net metering law and recommend against advancing Senate File 1142.

Sincerely,

Allen Gleckner
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