

March 7, 2025

Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
2025 - 2026 Biennium Ninety-fourth Legislature
Room 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

Energy-2025/03/10-Private Citizen

RE: S.F. 1142 Rarick - Net energy metering provisions modification

Dear Chair Frentz and Committee members,

I'm Mike Overend, a solar homeowner testifying from my home near Two Harbors, Minnesota and I use net metering to help create a better clean-energy future for our children.

Today's hearing addresses three big issues:

Number One: Net-Metering "pinches" Minnesota cooperative and municipal utilities between their regular electricity providers and home solar energy producers.

Number Two: Electrifying homes and businesses, plus new Electric Vehicles, Data Centers and Artificial Intelligence are all rapidly increasing electricity demand.

Number Three: Reaching Minnesota's 2040 goal of 100% clean electricity needs a creative "**All Of The Above**" solution, including increasing home solar and storage everywhere.

Amending net metering rates will lower homeowners' solar production revenues, making long "payback" periods worse and discouraging the increased new home solar and storage we truly need by 2040.

An important idea for your committee is considering how virtual power plants can uniquely help address all these problems.

Virtual power plants offer a new alternative revenue source for distributed energy resources while supporting Minnesota's solar industry. Virtual power plants also reliably benefit utilities and their customers with decreased peak energy costs and major savings for grid infrastructure.

Finally, a Minnesota state tax credit on home solar and storage installations and amended net metering revenue would also support these important distributed energy resources.

Thank You!

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