

March 7, 2025

The Honorable Nick Frentz
Chair, Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee
95 University Ave W
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in opposition to Senate File 1142 (Rarick). I am a retired Family Physician, a Board Member of Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC), and a member-owner of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.

As a physician, I strongly supported the passage of Minnesota's 100% carbon-free electricity standard in the 2023 legislative session. The medical science is clear: we are in a climate health emergency. Fossil fuel-based air pollution is responsible for 350,000 premature deaths annually in the U.S.¹ Minnesota's 100% clean energy law will save lives and is projected to prevent \$1.2 billion in health costs between 2022 and 2040.²

As a rural electric cooperative member-owner, I appreciate how Minnesota's current net metering law has empowered homeowners, farmers, schools, churches, and community solar gardens to participate in the transition to renewable energy. Thanks to net metering, my household was able to invest in a rooftop solar array with a reasonable 13-year payback. This policy enables member-owners like me to contribute to our co-op's clean energy transition while earning a fair return on our investment. SF 1142 threatens the expansion of solar energy and restricts rural electric co-op members from benefiting from residential and community solar projects.

I urge you to vote **NO** on SF 1142 to ensure Minnesota remains on track for 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040, protect public health, and preserve the ability of rural electric co-op members, schools, churches, and communities to fairly benefit from solar energy.

Daniel Trajano, MD, MBA
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative Member-Owner
Savage, MN

¹ Vohra, K., Vodonos, A., Schwartz, J., Marais, E. A., Sulprizio, M. P., & Mickley, L. J. (2021). Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion: Results from GEOS-Chem. *Environmental Research*, 195, 110754. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2021.110754>

² On the Road to 100 Percent Renewables for Minnesota, COPAL & UCS, 2021.