

March 26, 2025

Minnesota Senate  
Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Climate  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 2855 - Community Solar Garden Program Sunset

Dear Chair Frentz and committee members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today with concerns for Senate File 2855, a proposal to sunset the Community Solar Garden (CSG) Program.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership comprises over 70 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

In December 2024, the Minnesota Department of Commerce released a comprehensive analysis of the Low- and Moderate-Income Accessible Community Solar Garden (LMI CSG) program. This study, commissioned by the legislature, found the following:

*Over the study period, the CSG program is expected to deliver \$139 million in net benefits to LMI subscribers and \$116 million to non-LMI subscribers. Benefits are significantly higher than costs for Minnesota and CSG developers.<sup>1</sup>*

Beyond these economic advantages, the program offers substantial benefits boosting the resilience of the electricity grid, supporting job creation in the construction sector, and providing economic opportunities for landowners and host communities. Moreover, it contributes to Minnesota's renewable energy goals, aiding the state in meeting its statutory obligations for sustainable energy production.

On behalf of our community solar business members, CEEM recommends and supports a more measured approach to how the new LMI CSG program could be improved. Distributed generation will play an important role in quickly adding capacity and resiliency to the grid, and sunsetting the CSG program will hurt that effort.

We thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns with SF2855. CEEM and our business members are prepared to collaborate with stakeholders about tweaks to the CSG program to ensure continued benefit to subscribers, nonsubscribers, and the grid as a whole.

Sincerely,



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1. Community Solar Garden Study, Dec 2024: <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2024/mandated/241703.pdf>