



CLEAR ENERGY COALITION

BLACK VISIONS • COOPERATIVE ENERGY FUTURES • COMMUNITY POWER • VOTE SOLAR
INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE • MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TABLE
SIERRA CLUB • SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS • MINNESOTA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

CLEAR Energy Coalition

Advancing a Clean, Local,
Equitable, Affordable, and Reliable
Energy Future for Minnesota

Contact: Katie Kienbaum
kkienbaum@ilsr.org

March 25, 2025

Chair Frentz and Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee Members,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition supports clean, affordable, and reliable energy for all Minnesotans. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on Senate File 2855, which terminates Minnesota's [nation-leading Community Solar Garden Program](#). This is a radical reversal considering the Legislature made changes less than two years ago to improve program benefits for low- to moderate-income (LMI) families, affordable housing providers, schools, and other public interest institutions, as well as add important consumer protection provisions.

The CLEAR Energy Coalition opposes SF 2855. We urge the Committee to reject this attempt to take power and bill savings away from Minnesota families, businesses, and institutions, to the benefit of Xcel Energy's shareholders.

Community solar makes it possible for thousands of Minnesotans — especially working class families, renters, and others who can't afford rooftop solar — to reduce their electricity bills, share the financial benefits of clean energy, and do their part to take care of our environment. For Minnesota as a whole, the revised Community Solar Garden Program is expected to deliver nearly \$3 billion in *net* benefits, [according to the Department of Commerce](#) — in part, because community solar gardens deliver savings for all utility customers by lowering peak demand and avoiding expensive transmission grid upgrades. Notably, the program also creates new jobs in the green economy and provides crucial revenue for family farms via lease payments.

Despite these benefits, Xcel Energy and other utility monopolies push back against community solar gardens and local solar. That's because these programs empower communities to build energy projects that utility investors don't profit from.

Again, we encourage the Committee to oppose SF 2855 to ensure that Minnesota's clean energy transition benefits our state's families and communities, not just big corporations and wealthy investors. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The CLEAR Energy Coalition

Black Visions
Cooperative Energy Futures
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Vote Solar

Community Power
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Solar United Neighbors