

March 25, 2025

**Subject: SF 2855 Written Testimony**

Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our feedback on SF 2855. My name is Matt Privratsky and I'm the Director of Government Affairs for Nokomis Energy, a local clean energy developer based right here in the Twin Cities.

Nokomis was founded, in part, thanks to the creation of Minnesota's legacy community solar garden (CSG) program and has grown into a successful clean energy development shop with dozens of employees by delivering cost effective solar projects directly to utilities and businesses as well the many families, farmers, non-profits, schools, and government entities we've served through the CSG program. We have proudly advocated for new, competitively procured clean energy programs like the Distributed Solar Energy Standard and we are excited to continue our work bringing projects directly to cooperative, municipal, and investor owned utilities across the upper Midwest.

At the end of 2024, the Department of Commerce released its comprehensive analysis of the new Low and Moderate Income (LMI) CSG program — a report wisely requested by this committee — showing that the program provides a net benefit to the state as a whole. More specifically, it provides financial and community benefits not just to program subscribers themselves but also to the many workers and businesses who build the gardens and to the landowners and communities who host them — all while delivering local energy that helps Minnesota meet its climate goals.

While we are always open to conversations about how the new LMI CSG program could be improved, we are concerned that abruptly sunseting it — particularly after its so recently been updated to better focus its benefits toward low and moderate income Minnesotans — would have dramatic impacts on the local benefits, jobs, and businesses it's helped create across the state. At a time when our industry, and so many others, are already dealing with immense uncertainty at the federal level, it's important that Minnesota send a clear market signal that we are open for business and we welcome clean energy investment. Unfortunately, an abrupt repeal of a core clean energy program would do the opposite, so we must respectfully oppose SF 2855.

Sincerely,

Matt Privratsky  
Director of Government Affairs  
Nokomis Energy