

Rewiring America Testimony
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate
March 25, 2025

Dear Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

I am writing today on behalf of Rewiring America to express our support for the continuation of Minnesota's recently updated community solar garden program.

Empowering households to make independent energy decisions is central to our mission at Rewiring America. Nearly 42% of energy-related emissions stem from everyday choices—how we heat and cool our homes, heat water, and power appliances. While the average American family spends 3% of their income on energy, low-income households pay nearly 8%, and in Minnesota, that burden is often [significantly higher](#).

The recently implemented Low and Moderate-Income (LMI) Accessible Community Solar Garden program ensures that households in Xcel's service territory - including LMI and renters - are able to make independent decisions about their energy usage. The program currently requires that at least 30% of subscribers in a project be LMI households. This guarantees that the benefits reach those that need it most and enables independent energy decisions that help to mitigate household budget constraints.

The legislature must allow the newly established, equity-driven Community Solar Garden program to be fully implemented and evaluated before making changes such as those proposed in SF2855. Premature adjustments risk undermining a program designed to deliver cleaner, more affordable energy to those who need it most.

Thank you for your time,

Jenna Warmuth

Sr. Manager, Midwest Regional Policy
218.969.5976 | rewiringamerica.org