

March 26, 2025

Subject: SF 2855 Written Testimony

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Committee,

Solar Landscape respectfully submits testimony opposing SF 2855, authored by Representatives Nick Frentz, Bill Weber, and John Hoffman. The bill would sunset the Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Accessible Community Solar Gardens program on July 31, 2028.

Solar Landscape is the nation's leading developer of commercial/industrial rooftop community solar. We partner with landlords to develop, install, and operate these systems. With over 400 megawatts of renewable energy projects nationwide, we are proud to have projects underway in Minnesota under the LMI Accessible Community Solar Gardens program. These projects bring energy savings, workforce development, and job growth to the state.

We are committed to building Minnesota's clean energy workforce. With over 285 employees — including installers, engineers, and operators — we have seen firsthand how solar development drives job creation. In 2019, we launched STEP-UP (Solar Training and Education Partnerships for Underserved Populations), a workforce development initiative that has prepared more than 2,300 individuals in seven states for careers in renewable energy. Community solar programs make this investment possible, helping trainees build the skills needed for entry-level roles in residential and commercial solar. Community solar programs, such as the LMI Accessible Community Solar Gardens program, make this investment possible by creating the market conditions needed to support training and hiring. Our own internal research has shown that 525 megawatts of community solar generate roughly 4 million labor hours, or 2,100 full-time jobs if done within the course of a year.



Ending the LMI Accessible program would end a growing source of workforce development and limit economic opportunity, especially for low-income Minnesotans. The program, launched only last year, gives people real control over energy costs. Repealing it would harm the very communities it was meant to help while stifling job growth and energy innovation.

Solar Landscape respectfully asks the Committee to withdraw SF2855. The LMI Accessible Community Solar Gardens program delivers guaranteed energy savings to low- and moderate-income Minnesotans. As electricity demand is projected to rise more than 10% in the coming decade, Minnesota needs clean, rapidly deployable generation and the workforce to sustain it. We are proud to contribute to Minnesota's renewable energy economy and urge lawmakers to keep this vital program in place.

Sincerely,

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