



April 6th, 2025

RE: CSG program sunset provision in omnibus SF 2393

Dear Chair and members of the Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee:

I write today on behalf of US Solar to express deep concern over the proposed sunset of Minnesota's new LMI Community Solar Garden (CSG) program outlined in SF 2393 at lines 14.13–15. This proposed sunset would abruptly end a program that businesses like ours relied on when making long-term investment and hiring decisions – and it would eliminate the benefits for farmers and landowners that have signed up to host projects, and ratepayers that want take control of their energy costs.

Just two years ago, the Legislature passed a law that created a long-term path to develop community solar projects, including expanded access for low- and moderate-income households. These 5-MW projects often take 3–6 years to develop and build, and the market couldn't submit new projects until May 2024, when Xcel Energy finally opened its new interconnection portal. Now, less than a year later, this bill would effectively terminate the opportunity before many projects have a chance to reach the finish line. Small businesses across the state would lose investments already made without any path to recover them.

We believed this program offered a reliable, thoughtful framework to develop community solar over the long term. Based on that belief, we made real investments—hiring Minnesotans, engaging local partners, and pursuing projects under the new statute. Passing this sunset bill now, before projects have even come online, would send a message that Minnesota is not a place where clean-energy businesses can count on consistent policy. Most troubling, some continue to argue that community solar is too costly despite clear evidence to the contrary. The Minnesota Department of Commerce commissioned an independent report that found the CSG program would deliver \$3 billion in **net benefits** to the state. Sunsetting the program would thus significantly harm the state economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. Your attention to this matter and your support for thoughtful, evidence-based policymaking is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Reed Richerson

President

US Solar

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