



RE: SF 2393 – Community Solar Garden Program Sunset

Opposed

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

CleanCapital provides this written testimony regarding SF 2393. Please consider this testimony in opposition to the CSG repeal component of the omnibus bill.

CleanCapital is a leading independent power producer focused on distributed clean energy, including middle market solar and energy storage. CleanCapital leverages decades of expertise to develop, build, own, operate, and invest in clean energy assets across the U.S. The company is a leadership member of the Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA), a national trade association representing over 125 community solar developers, businesses, and nonprofits, and is an active member of the Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA), a trade organization of over 140 members with the mission of growing the solar and energy storage industries as part of Minnesota's clean energy transition. CleanCapital's portfolio of operating and under-construction assets amount to more than 200 projects totaling over 370 MW—among the largest commercial solar portfolios in the U.S., according to Wood Mackenzie. To date, the company has invested over \$1 billion in projects and companies, including 8 operating community solar projects with a cumulative nameplate capacity of over 11 MW in Minnesota. CleanCapital has already invested in the development of projects that will participate in Minnesota's Low-to-Moderate (LMI) Assessible Community Solar Garden (CSG) Program and play an active role in the state's transition to a clean, reliable, and resilient electric grid.

SF 2393 proposes to sunset Minnesota's newly reformed LMI Accessible CSG program in 2030. According to a December 2024 report from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the CSG program has delivered affordable, renewable energy to over 34,000 families and businesses and is projected to provide \$2.92 billion in net benefits across the state, with LMI subscribers expected to save between \$7-\$10 per month on their electricity bills.¹ Sunsetting the program would remove critical bill savings for thousands of LMI households, drive energy costs higher, exacerbate electricity affordability issues, eliminate local clean energy jobs, and threaten American energy independence.

This component of the omnibus bill also undermines Minnesota's requirement of achieving a 100% clean energy grid by 2040. Currently, CSG projects account for approximately 60% of all solar in the state. This bill would both harm existing renewable projects in Minnesota and hinder new renewable development by introducing significant economic uncertainty and investment risk. Sunsetting the CSG program would irreparably harm investments made in the state and dismantle long-term contracts made with CSG customers, including municipalities, school districts, houses of worship, small businesses, and LMI households. Ending the CSG program after several years of negotiations, many concessions and compromises from the solar industry,

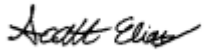
¹ Minnesota Department of Commerce, *Community Solar Garden Study, 2024*, (December 15, 2024).

and only just recently reforming the program gives a clear signal that Minnesota is not supportive of the renewable energy industry.

Companies like CleanCapital have made significant financial investment in Minnesota based on the rules in effect at the time investments are made. Developers and financiers have relied on clear rules to make informed decisions that support Minnesotans and meet the state's climate goals. Retroactive changes undermine this foundation, violate principles of honoring contractual agreements, and will tarnish the state's reputation as a reliable partner for operating clean energy assets.

CleanCapital strongly urges the Committee to oppose SF 2393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Elias".

Scott Elias,
Director of Policy and Market Development
CleanCapital
selias@cleancapital.com