



CCSA



VOTE SOLAR

SOLAR UNITED
NEIGHBORS

ILSR INSTITUTE FOR
Local Self-Reliance

CURE



SIERRA
CLUB



Chair Marty and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA), Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA), Vote Solar, Solar United Neighbors (SUN), the Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR), CURE, Sierra Club, Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES), and all undersigned companies, advocates, and environmental groups, **we write to express our strong opposition to the proposed sunset of the Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Accessible Community Solar Garden (CSG) Program, as outlined in SF 2393, the A31 DE amendment.**

Minnesota's community solar program—reformed into the LMI CSG program in 2023—has become a nationally recognized model for delivering affordable, renewable energy to households and businesses. **According to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the LMI CSG program is projected to provide \$2.92 billion in net benefits to the state of Minnesota¹. LMI subscribers are expected to save \$7–\$10 per month on their energy bills, providing crucial financial relief for Minnesotans who need it most.** Additionally the program accelerates Minnesota's clean energy transition, allowing for Minnesotans of all income levels and living situations to participate in green energy, not simply utilities or wealthier individuals.

Make no mistake - this language would sunset the new, reformed LMI CSG program, not the original legacy program. The legacy program has already been closed to new applicants and reformed into the LMI CSG program, to better meet the needs of lower income Minnesotans and our state, as well as capping its capacity to ensure stability for the participating utility.

The proposed sunset in SF 2393 would severely undermine these benefits and the foundational trust on which clean energy investments in the state have been made. Each company on this letter, and many more who are not, have, in reliance on the Legislature's decision to establish the LMI CSG program, made many long-term investments in Minnesota, and are in various stages of development to provide more of the same. These investments have resulted in long-term contracts with municipalities, school districts, houses of worship, and small businesses who rely on the promised stability of the 25-year program term established in law.

Many CSGs are co-located with native grasses and pollinator habitats, supporting local ecosystems, while also providing lease income to Minnesota landowners and tax revenues to local governments. Ending the program prematurely would dismantle these local economic engines and violate long-standing agreements with Minnesota residents and institutions.

Moreover, this policy reversal would contradict Minnesota's own goal of reaching 100% clean electricity by 2040. Community solar currently accounts for approximately 60% of Minnesota's solar capacity. Removing this program and the resources it provides from the clean energy mix so soon after its passage would send an unmistakable signal to businesses and investors nationwide that Minnesota is an unstable and risky market for renewable energy.

¹Minnesota Department of Commerce, *Community Solar Garden Study, 2024*, (December 15, 2024). <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2024/mandated/241703.pdf>, p. 13-14

We respectfully urge the Committee to remove this harmful provision from SF 2393. Minnesota has become a leader in building a resilient, affordable, and equitable clean energy future. We cannot and should not go back on that leadership.

Signed,

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