

Sign-On Letter in Support of Plug-In Solar in the Senate Energy Omnibus Bill

Dear Members of the Minnesota Senate,

The undersigned organizations write to express strong support for maintaining plug-in solar provisions within the Senate energy omnibus bill. We urge you to preserve this policy as a practical and accessible tool to expand clean energy access for Minnesotans.

Plug-in solar offers a meaningful opportunity to broaden participation in clean energy, particularly for renters and households without suitable rooftops. These small systems can be installed on patios, balconies, or yards and connected to a home's energy system in accordance with established safety standards, helping more Minnesotans take control of their energy use.

Even at a modest scale, these systems can deliver real savings - estimated at \$20 to \$33 per month, or \$250 to \$400 annually. For many households, this provides a meaningful reduction in energy costs.

Safety is central to this policy. The bill caps systems at 1200 watts - similar to common household appliances like hairdryers or blenders - and requires that all systems be certified to the Underwriters Laboratories UL 3700 standard. This certification includes rigorous requirements to prevent electric shock, avoid circuit overloading, and eliminate backfeeding during outages, ensuring safety for both households and utility workers. Systems must also comply with the National Electrical Code, including provisions that ensure safe integration with a home's electrical system.

This policy respects property rights by allowing Minnesotans to use small, safe devices to generate electricity for their own consumption.

The bill has broad support from a diverse set of stakeholders, including bipartisan support from advocates in Minnesota. IBEW has taken a neutral position, and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, including the state's chief electrical inspector, has reviewed this policy and confirmed that UL 3700 "provides an appropriate safety framework for evaluating this type of equipment," consistent with existing electrical safety requirements.

Plug-in solar is a commonsense solution that expands energy choice, lowers costs, and maintains strong safety standards. We respectfully ask you to support its continued inclusion in the Senate energy omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

(Signatures on 2nd page)

Vote Solar
Indivisible Twin Cities
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Northern Minnesota New Iron and Clean Energy
Solar United Neighbors
Center for Rural Affairs
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Third Act Minnesota
Elders for Climate Action Twin Cities
Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
Cooperative Energy Futures
Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota
Black Visions
Bright Saver
East Metro EcoFaith Collaborative
Vote Climate
Clean River Partners
Oak Grove Presbyterian Green Committee