

Dear Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee,

My family moved back to home to MN about 4 years ago from Colorado. I was born and grew up in SW MN where my 88 year old father lives. As we travel 212 to visit him we have seen many solar farms being built. At first we noticed them but now they are just part of the landscape.

When I lived in Sioux Falls, I remember the big windmills and worried about the look but as I traveled back and forth from Sioux Falls to MN I got used to them as well. I believe many people are concerned about the looks of solar panels but fortunately the industry has done a nice job of making them more efficient and more pleasing to the eye.

In buying our house here in Carver and knowing of the success and frequency of houses putting solar panels up where we lived in Colorado, my husband did his research, contacted a few solar panel companies, and sent an e-mail to our HOA requesting that we be allowed to put up solar panels. We believe they are environmentally and financially the right thing to do.

While the HOA has been good and requested images of the type of solar panels we would put up etc., we were turned down. I attended the HOA yearly meeting last year to take up our case again. The concern was the aesthetic piece as well as that homeowners would blame the board for their decision to approve as no one has asked to have solar panels yet. I did request a survey be done but maybe 5 – 10 people responded with the vote very close. We understand that living in a community involves abiding by certain guidelines. We would follow the rules this bill requires but we also don't feel that the home owner board should feel responsible for this decision. We appreciate their work on behalf of our community and would like for that to be taken off of their responsibilities by the passage of this bill.

We want to install solar panels for the financial benefit as well the benefit for everyone in producing clean renewable energy. We believe our neighbors will not only understand but see the benefits themselves and consider producing clean renewable energy through solar panels.

Thank you,

Stefanie Fuhr

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