

Hello and thank you for letting me be here today. I am Natalie Ringsmuth, I live in Waite Park, part of the St. Cloud region with my husband and 3 children.

I am a GRIP/ISAIAH Leader ,  
member and Ministry Team Leader for Westwood Church,  
Charter School Board Member,  
Founder and Director of UniteCloud,  
And a Member of the Create Community Committee in St. Cloud

As a leader in my community I see much of what Janice has described. This past month, my organization along with others organized , a diaper drive and collected 100,000 diapers for families in need. This sadly, is only one of many activities happening in my community these days. People need help, and we are trying to meet the needs of the hungry, the homeless, our new neighbors, immigrants and refugees who often don't have the resources available to help themselves.

But I know, if sizeable action isn't taken by our state leaders, next year I and other community leaders will be in position where we will need to collect more diapers, find more beds in church basements, and I want to say that that is not the vision I believe God had for my community.

I grew up in Sauk Rapids, just across the river from St. Cloud, an area that has changed dramatically since I was a kid. Poverty and crime rates have gone up and success of students has gone down. The cities have grown more diverse and that is a GREAT thing, but people can't realize their God-given potential when they don't have the resources to do so. Recently we learned from the city planner that although the city has three industrial parks not only would businesses stand to benefit from the Northstar extension, but that there are businesses such as CG Welding and others that he could imagine will leave our are if Northstar ISN'T extended, because they need to compete for workers. This will further damage our economy.

I am here today to call on state leaders to invest in our community to not just maintain what we have but to create greater access and economic

opportunity in our region so that my community can thrive and live fully the lives God intended for us.

Thank you.

Hello I am Haji Yussuf, I live in St. Cloud with my wife and two small children.

I am a GRIP/ISAIAH Leader,  
Co-Founder of UniteCloud,  
Founder of St.Cloud Somali Radio,  
And a Founding and current member of St. Cloud Area Youth Association

I am here today to tell you about St. Cloud and what is great about it. I choose to live in St. Cloud because it is a nice, quiet and safe place for my wife and I to raise our children. I live in St. Cloud because I want opportunity and success for my children, I want opportunity and success for my whole community.

However we have many disparities in areas of health, housing, education, jobs and this isn't right. We need to address these issues, but we know they can't all be addressed overnight. We are very grateful for this committee and look forward to working with Representative Knobloch on a number of these issues. However I would like to point to what other GRIP/ISAIAH leaders have said, we need a strategic investment to get St. Cloud back on track economically.

In my community many of us need and want to travel to the cities, for work and schooling. There are a number of young people who want to do a Masters in the cities but simply cannot get there, many of these people already have families and want to stay in St. Cloud and contribute something to our community. But to own a car is costly and families simply don't have the resources they need to do all this commuting. I urge this committee to keep a focus on St. Cloud when considering racial and economic equity issues in many issue areas, but for now, and in this upcoming legislative session to complete Northstar rail to St. Cloud, to create greater access and opportunity across the fastest growing corridor in our state and create a more vibrant economy in the central region of our state, to the benefit for us all.

Thank you.

Hello my name is Janice Sims. I am a GRIP/ISAIAH leader,  
a resident of St. Cloud  
a member of Higher Ground Church  
a Aspiring Missionary in the church  
a Promised Neighborhood Board member  
and a member of the MetroBus Advisory Committee

In St. Cloud we have real problems with both economic and racial equities. Our poverty rate is currently 25%, a rate which has doubled in the last few years and **is twice that of our state's average**. We are here today to make sure that regional economic disparities are also addressed by our state leaders.

Over half of the students in the school district are on free and reduced lunch, last year Catholic Charities served 20,000 households and that is an unduplicated number, this in a metro area that has a population of 160,000 people. St. Cloud has three of the poorest schools in our state. I am a board member for Promised Neighborhood, a local non-profit located right next to the Talahi school. We serve many of the parents and families from that school. We need better jobs, better pay for those families.

I have been a leader with GRIP/ISAIAH's campaign to extend Northstar to St. Cloud this past year. This campaign has never been only about transportation, but about a need we see to invest in and revitalize our local and regional economy.

This past week the league of Women Voter's held a forum on the Northstar Extension. The Director of Greater St. Cloud Development Cooperation stated at that meeting that if Northstar were extended the whole community would benefit, that businesses could attract a larger labor pool and that wages could be increased.

In order to start to address the economic disparities in St. Cloud, our state and local elects need to make strategic investments in Greater MN to ensure all families and individuals can thrive. My faith tells me that Finishing Northstar will be a strong start in a new direction, for my community.

Thank you.



1/15/16

**Ruby Lee, President of CLUES - Testimony in support of Targeted Funding for Latinos and People of Color in Minnesota**

**Introduction**

My Name is Ruby Lee and I am President of CLUES – Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (Latino Communities United in Service).

CLUES was founded for Latinos by Latinos 35 years ago and it is today the largest Latino-led agency in the State –providing **direct services** to approximately 15,000 people annually. CLUES’ services are delivered by close to 100 staff and over 800 volunteers. Our holistic approach to service delivery is family-centric. Our model of delivery **focuses on lifting two generations at once** –working with parents and their children in building healthy and stable homes for them to thrive socially, emotionally, educationally, and financially.

At CLUES we focus on positive **“return on investment”** for our funders and partners as well as, developing transformational impact in community outcomes and systems’ change. Our innovative models engage underserved and underrepresented communities in reducing disparities and poverty.

**Statement**

Latinos today make up the fastest growing segment of the State’s population and we will continue to make up an increasingly large part of tomorrow’s workforce. Yet, data shows that Latinos and communities of color in Minnesota are - More likely to live in poverty - More likely to suffer from chronic illnesses - Less likely to graduate from high school – and Less likely to own their own home.

The trends that make Minnesota the envy of states across the country are not the same for Latinos or our communities of color and American Indians. The disparities between whites and nonwhites are worsening every day.

<i><b>MN National Ratings</b></i>		<i><b>MN Latinos &amp; People of Color Realities</b></i>
MN is home to 19 Fortune 500 Company headquarters with corporate giving programs	➔	Largest racial poverty gap in the nation
#1 in per capita home ownership	➔	#49 in nation per capita home ownership
Among top five highest employment rate	➔	Highest unemployment among people of color
Lowest rate of outflow in the nation	➔	Among highest racial disparities in the nation
Highly educated population, at top of ACT/SAT test scores	➔	Minneapolis Latino students have the lowest High School graduation score
While health outcomes for non-Latinos are improving in MN	➔	One out of every two Latino children born in the U.S. after 2000 will develop diabetes

**Seeking your Support**

We look forward to seeing additional proposals to address these disparities through intentional investment and equitable distribution of resources for Latinos, People of Color, Native American and immigrant communities. As well, please look forward to our own CLUES proposals to address job training, health, and youth services.

1/15/16



## Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

2512 33rd Ave South #2 – Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

651-331-0919

[www.MnSEIA.org](http://www.MnSEIA.org)

14JAN16

To: Jamez Staples

From: John Kearney  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

---

### MnSEIA's Projected Job Requirements for MN Solar Expansion

- MN Solar Installations will increase from the current 25 megawatts to 980 megawatts by the end of 2018.

That is an increase of 15 times (400MW) by the end of 2016 and early 2017 to 40 times (980MW) by the end of 2018

- We estimate that it will take 200 electricians + 400 apprentices = 600 workers to install 400 MW assuming that they are on rotating crews.

Those 600 workers will rotate through the projects over a period of three years and may or may not be enough to install 980 MW by the end of 2018.

- In addition to those 600 there will have to be an increase in support staff including sales & marketing personnel; project managers and office administrators.

This increase in panel deployment will require MN and other manufacturers to hire more workers.

MN Solar supply chain companies will also hire.