



March 25, 2021

Subject: Solar Industry Supports use HF 1850

Representatives:

The Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit trade organization that represents our state's solar and energy storage businesses. Together we represent over 120 solar companies and related businesses, which employ over 4,200 Minnesotans. On behalf of Minnesota's solar energy business community, we write in support of HF 1850, which would provide a tax credit for Minnesota's homeowners and businesses in cooperative and municipal electric utility service territories to purchase solar and storage systems for their homes and businesses.

This bill would encourage solar development across all cooperative and municipal electric utility service territories in the state. Currently, several utilities offer customer rebate programs for rooftop solar, notably Xcel Energy's Solar*Rewards and Minnesota Power's SolarSense. Both of these programs were extended recently, respectively by this body and by the Public Utilities Commission. That legislative and regulatory support demonstrates the value these programs have for the public good. This bill would extend similar support to customers that happen to live in electric service territories other than those. Electric customers lack choice as to which utility delivers electricity, but the choice to generate one's own electricity is a value we should all share. This bill represents a commitment to those values.

Rooftop solar is in many ways the most valuable kind of solar development. It delivers power right where it is needed, and creates the most jobs per MW of development. On-site solar and storage, by matching generation to local load, is very valuable to the grid—and the grid resilience it offers seems all the more valuable in light of recent grid reliability crises elsewhere. By encouraging homeowners and small businesses to add rooftop solar and on-site storage, this bill demonstrates the commitment of this body to distributed energy resources and to clean energy job creation in Greater Minnesota.

MnSEIA would like to thank the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee for having this important conversation, and to thank Representative Bierman for bringing this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Peter Teigland
Policy Associate
Minnesota Solar Energy Industries
Association