



March 11, 2021

Subject: Solar Industry Supports H.F. 257

Representatives:

The Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit trade organization that represents our state's solar businesses. Together we represent 115 solar companies and related businesses, which employ over 4,200 Minnesotans. On behalf of Minnesota's solar energy business community, we write to voice our support for this bill and to thank the Committee for bringing it forward..

This bill advances personal freedoms and property rights. The right to generate one's own electricity is a value important to the citizens of Minnesota, and one that we are happy to see highlighted today by this committee. This bill would allow owners of single-family homes in homeowners associations to enjoy the benefits of going solar when they could not before, and codifies in law that customers have a right to request and receive appropriately detailed data about their own energy usage. Twenty-seven other states, including our neighbors in Iowa and Wisconsin, have enacted solar access legislation like this bill before the committee, and it is time for Minnesota to do the same.

This bill would simply require that homeowners associations treat solar installations similarly to other architectural improvements: the association may offer a reasonable alternative installation, and make certain requirements of the installer company, but it cannot prohibit solar installations outright. As solar equipment has become more affordable, more efficient, and more attractive, it has found more homeowners that want to improve their homes with it.

Solar has broad appeal among customers and voters of all parties. We should ensure that all Minnesota homeowners have access to it.

We respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Peter Teigland
Policy Associate
Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association