

April 3, 2024

Minnesota House of Representatives
Committee on Climate and Energy Finance and Policy
State Office Building, Room 200
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 5097 - Addressing grid interconnection issues

Dear Chair Acomb and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of House File 5097, a bill addressing interconnection delays and shocking grid upgrade price tags attached to individual projects plaguing the expansion of renewable and distributed generation across the state. Fixing existing interconnection issues now and setting up new processes moving forward is crucial to ensuring that distributed generation can play a key role in delivering a resilient, reliable, and clean energy grid of the future.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership is comprised of over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

Interconnection issues have become one of the most significant remaining barriers to getting more distributed energy on the grid. Our business members and their customers have expressed frustration with interconnection issues delaying projects and causing unreasonable cost increases on projects. The comprehensive cost-sharing model proposed in this legislation will better reflect the reality of who benefits from an upgrade to the grid system at a given location. This model has been in place in other jurisdictions, including New York and Massachusetts, and has been successful in addressing their interconnection queue issues.

This legislation is a significant step toward addressing a key barrier for distributed generation across our state. We thank Chair Acomb for authoring the bill. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



George Damian
Director of Government Affairs
gdamian@cleanenergyeconomymn.org



Chandra Her
Policy Associate
cher@cleanenergyeconomymn.org