

To: Climate and Energy Finance and Policy House Committee
Chairs Rep. Jamie Long and Rep. Patty Acomb

I am writing in support of the 100% Clean Energy Bill. Passage of this bill will help get Minnesota on track to hit its targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

I live in Grand Rapids MN and for the past five years have been engaged with area residents and our local Public Utilities Commission to provide “homegrown” solar power to our local grid by means of a community solar garden. The end result of that work is the Itasca Clean Energy 2 Megawatt solar+battery storage system, which will be constructed this summer and operational this fall. Our PUC got behind this effort because their customers were in favor of renewable energy and because analysis showed that solar power would be less expensive than conventional fossil fuels.

My community is in the shadow of Minnesota Power's Clay Boswell facility. Closure of this plant will bring huge environmental and climate benefits, but will also pose big challenges for city and county governments and for those whose jobs are at stake. Passage of the 100% Clean Energy Bill will help ensure that workers and communities are protected and provided with tools, opportunities, and economic assistance to make an orderly transition.

Just as the Itasca Clean Energy project can serve as an example for other communities, Minnesota can serve as an example for other states by enacting the 100% Clean Energy Bill. We must act now to reduce the damaging and destabilizing effects of climate change.

Thank you.

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