

February 1, 2023

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

RE: House File 747, Solar Grant Program: Public Buildings

Dear Chair Acomb, Representative Reyer, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of HF747 for a solar on public buildings grant program to be established in the Department of Commerce. We support this bill because it will create new market opportunities for Minnesota's solar industry, decrease energy costs for public buildings, and assist local governments in reaching their climate goals.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Representative Reyer for authoring this bill and Chair Acomb for hearing it in committee. A solar grant program bring jobs and economic activity to the local community, add distributed energy resources to Minnesota's power mix, and help local units of government meet their clean energy goals.

Moreover, there are many benefits local governments will gain because of solar on public buildings. Monetary cost savings from electricity generation of solar will allow for local governments to address other building upgrades that promote energy efficiency to further decarbonize buildings. The Inflation Reduction Act's ten year extension of the solar tax credit and the change allowing local units of government to take advantage of these credits, now is the perfect time for a program like this to maximize its benefit and add solar to public buildings.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support for this bill. We look forward to its passage. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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Director of Government Affairs
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