

My name is Leila Hoeschen Ehrbright and I am writing this testimony in support of the Solar in Schools Legislation. I am in 9th grade at East High School and am a part of the Duluth Climate Club. The Duluth Climate Club has been working on achieving solar for schools in our district. At first, we worked and researched an individual project for Ordean East Middle School. This presentation went over solar potential, cost, saving, and funding options but any plans to move forward were put on hold due to COVID-19. We then learned about a larger project going on for our district. This project was put together by a number of people from University of Minnesota Duluth and presented to district leadership as a full solar potential analysis for all of the schools in the ISD 709 district. So as you can imagine, the Solar in Schools Legislation could make a really big difference in putting these plans in motion. If these plans move forward we would be trading out what we spend in electricity and putting that into our solar panels. This would make it so that the district wouldn't run on any carbon resources. Looking at numbers for Lowell Elementary; they spend 59,134 dollars on electricity annually. If both a 1.7 MW roof solar array and a 328.4 kW ground mount array were installed it would have a total cost of 6,085,200. The estimated amount of years it would take to generate payback is 19. After these 19 years, Lowell Elementary would be saving 110,320 dollars annually.

This project and the Solar in Schools legislation are important because they can help reduce our carbon footprint and help us have a much better impact on the environment. The effects of climate change are effects that my generation are going to have to deal with and projects and legislations such as these can help us to get a head start and improve the places we live, work, and learn. This testimony is me urging to see the legislation pass through the House with your support.

Thank you.